Special Workers Colonial Number THE of the World Unite!

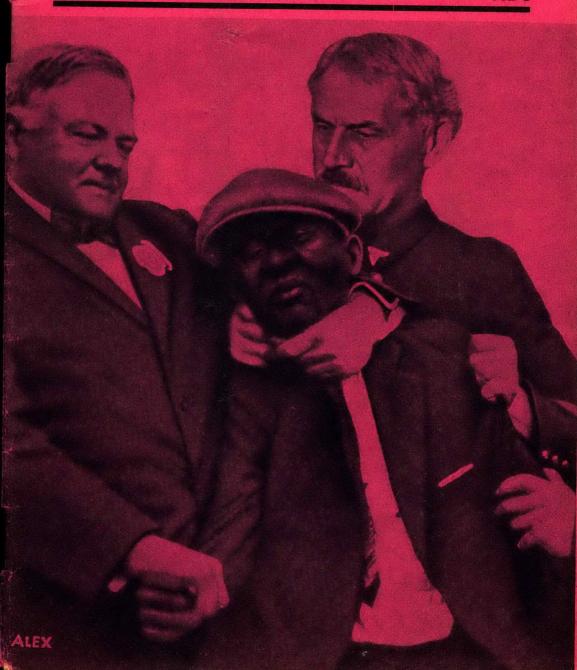
13,9,17

NEGRO WORKER

No. 10/11

October-November

Vol. 1



THE NEGRO WORKER

No. 10/11

October-November 1931

Vol. 1

Editorial Board: George Padmore, Editor-in-Chief.

Contributing Editors: J. W. Ford, Cyril Briggs, D. B. Amis (U. S. A.); O. E. Huiswood (R. I. L. U.); C. Alexander (West Indies); E. Forster Jones, E. F. Small (West Africa); G. Kouyatte (French West Africa); A. Nzula, P. G. Moloinjane (South Africa); Mansey (Congo).

CONTENTS

War in the East — Editorial.

Hands off Liberia! By G. Padmore.

Forced Labor under the British Flag.

Colonial Masses in Revolt.

The Congo Uprising. By O. Huiswood.

Negro Workers in Cuba. By C. Alexander.

The Anti-imperialist Movement — Resolution.

Two Worlds — Socialism and Capitalism. By H. Remmele.

International News in Brief.

Capitalist Terror.

Voices from the Colonies — Workers Correspondence.

Death of Comrade Macaulay.

The Workers Bookshelf — What to Read.

ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE OF NEGRO WORKERS, 8 ROTHESOODSTR., HAMBURG, GERMANY

Price 5 cents

Price 2 pence

Write for "The Negro Worker" which fights for your class

The War Danger

War in the East

Negro Workers, defend the Soviet Union and the Chinese Revolution!

A new act of war has been committed by the Japanese imperialists in Manchuria, North China, where troops are being sent under all kinds of flimsy excuses to bomb defenseless cities and to annex Manchuria and turn it into a Japanese colony like Korea. The highhanded policy of Japan has once more shown the utter futility of the League of Nations and the Kellog "Peace" Pact as instruments for preventing war.

China, which, like Japan, was a signatory of the Kellog Pact against war, has now appealed to all the nations (including Britain and the U.S.A.) which signed

this pact, to intervence, but is certainly unlikely to get any satisfaction.

Furthermore, under Article 16 of the League Convenant the Assembly of the League of Nations is pledged to enforce a financial and economic blockade against any member of the League proved to have committed an act of violence against another member.

Japan and China are both members of the League, nevertheless, the attitude of the League has been such that Japan has been permitted the full right to send troops to implant herself firmly in the Chinese territory of Manchuria.

Hunt for Iron and Coal.

Among the reasons why Japan wants to steal Manchuria away from China is because coal and iron, two indispensable minerals in the economic life of any imperialist nation, are both lacking in Japan, while Manchuria is rich in these minerals. Besides this, the Japanese capitalists already experiencing the effects of the world crisis are desperately attempting to find new colonial markets for their commodities and an outlet for the investment of their finance-capital. Furthermore, they hope that by starting a war they will be able to distract the attention of millions of peasants and workers who are actually starving from their class interests and turn them into national patriots — thereby mobilizing them as cannonfodder in carrying out the robber policy of Japanese imperialism.

Preparing Attack upon Soviet Russia.

This imperialist expansion of Japan into Manchuria brings her into conflict with the Soviet Union, for she realizes that it will be dangerous to have Soviet territory bounding to her newly annexed colony, as the freedom which the toilers of the Soviet Union enjoy will be an incentive to the oppressed Chinese masses in Manchuria to follow the path of revolutionary struggle against their Japanese oppressors.

This is another reason why Japan, like the other imperialist powers America, England and France, are not only interested in dividing up China among themselves in the same way as the European powers did with Africa during the last century, but are hoping to be able to compromise their imperialistic differences and unite together in launching an armed attack upon the revolutionary government in the Soviet districts of China and Soviet Russia, which they all hate and would like to destroy.

The capitalist powers of the West are all hoping that the Japanese militarists will succeed in provoking Soviet Russia into war, which will provide them with the opportunity of joining in the fight under some pretext or another.

The provocative attitude of the Japanese imperialists is shown by the lying reports which they are spreading with the aid of the capitalist press of Europe and America that the Soviet Union is supplying Chinese generals with ammunition to defend Manchuria against the Japanese militarists. The Soviet Government has categorically refuted these lies.

The Japanese imperialists require lies and slanders as an excuse in order to stretch out their robber hands against the stronghold of the revolutionary workers of the world, which has just celebrated its 14th anniversary; and which, with the greatest sacrifice and with utmost exertion of all its forces, is completing the third year of the Five-Year-Plan.

The new turn in the Manchurian war is an alarm signal to the workers throughout the world. Whilst hitherto the protests against Japanese imperialism have been isolated, it is now necessary to strengthen them and to carry out a mass mobilization of the revolutionary proletariat in all countries.

The Japanese Note to the Soviet Government shows that the hour of greatest canger to the Soviet Union is near.

The immediate answer to this Japanese provocation towards the Soviet Union must by closely connected with the mass action against the violation of Manchuria, against the imperialist robber campaign against the working masses of China.

Class - not Race War.

This new war of enslaving the Chinese people and stealing their country points an important lesson to the Negro workers and the toilers of the other darker races. It exposes the whole misleading reformist programme of the Negro capitalists, landlords and intellectuals in America who try to hide up the class policy of the Japanese imperialists behind idle talk of "unity of the darker races". Never will all the people of any race be united under capitalism, where there is rich and poor, exploiters and exploited. These fakers know this, but in order to make the poor working class blacks forget their misery, the so-called Negro leaders are trying to create the impression among the Negro masses that all people with a dark skin, whether they belong to the capitalist or working class, have the same interests.

In the present Manchurian war we see through this lie. For here we find the Japanese imperialists, member of the same yellow race (Mongolian) as the Chinese workers and peasants, using machine guns, bombing planes, battleships, and other devices of modern warfare to conquer and then enslave people of their own colour in just the same way as British imperialism oppresses the white toiling masses in Ireland, and the black Americo-Liberian ruling class their kinsmen in Liberia.

This is not the first time that the Japanese imperialists have shown themselves the same type of robbers and enslavers like their white imperialist brothers in Europe and America, by using arms to massacre people of their own race. They did the same to the Koreans, and since then, the Japanese imperialist policy in Korea can only be compared with that of the French, Portuguese, British and Belgian in Africa, where terror, forced labour and the most brutal forms of oppression exist. The Negro workers must not forget that in all capitalist countries whether the population happens to be white as in Europe, yellow as in Japan and China, brown as in India, or black as in Liberia and Haiti, it is not colour that counts, but class.

Rich Chinese, Japanese, Indians and Negroes exploit the poor of their own

race in just the same way as white capitalists oppress the white workers. Exploitation knows no colour-line. A capitalist and landlord is the same bloodsucker, no matter what colour he might be. This is what every Negro worker must recognize in the present conflict in Manchuria; for only in this way will the Negro masses be able to expose the deceptive plans of their own capitalists, landlords and other schemers who, like Marcus Garvey, in order to build up their capitalist



Monster Demonstration of Chinese workers and students in Shanghai against Japanese imperialism in Manchuria

business enterprises in America and Africa are trying to get the masses of his race to believe that all black people have the same interests — whether they be capitalists, landlords or workers.

The Negro workers must join hands with the working class of all the world in fighting for their class interests and ralling to the defense of the Chinese workers and peasants as well as of Soviet Russia, the fatherland of all workers and oppressed peoples —, against Japanese imperialism and capitalist intervention.

Under the Yoke of Imperialism

Hands off Liberia!

By GEORGE PADMORE.

Capitalist Rivalry for Colonies.

All of the capitalist countries of Europe and America, as well as the colonial and semi-colonial countries are in the greatest economic crisis which the world has ever experienced. This is causing untold hardship and misery for the working class and peasantry. Over 40 millions workers are unable to find jobs, while hundreds of millions of peasant toilers of all races and colours, are faced with starvation and hunger.

In the face of all of this deprivation and hardship, the capitalists have refused to give any relief to the unemployed workers, but instead, are cutting down the wages of those who are fortunate enough to still have jobs, while at the same time the working hours are being increased. Furthermore, the workers are being made to work faster and faster in the mines and factories as well as on the plantations. This is known as the policy of capitalist rationalisation and enables the exploiters to maintain their great profits.

Not satisfied with this, these same capitalist robbers, especially the powerful imperialist nations like United States, France, England and Japan are competing with each other for the purpose of getting new territories as sources for raw materials and markets where they can dump their manufactured goods.

This rivalry is leading to new imperialist wars. While at the same time all of the capitalist nations are plotting intervention against Soviet Russia, the only country ruled over by a workers' government. Already Japan has started to make war against China and is provoking the Soviet Union into war by sending troops into Manchuria, territory next to the workers' republic.

America is also one of the foremost nations struggling to obtain new colonies. This rivalry is daily becoming sharper and sharper between the United States, England, France and Japan.

The Firestone Dictatorship in Liberia.

During the latter part of the last century, when Africa was divided up among the European nations, America was not so much interested in this continent. America found her colonial expansion in the Pacific where she stole the Philippine Islands, and in the Caribbees, where she annexed Porto Rico and established a protectorate over Cuba and the Latin-American countries through the Monroe Doctrine. But since the last imperialist war, the American capitalists have become very much interested in Africa. Why? The automobile manufacturers found themselves confronted with the necessity of securing large supplies of rubber for the manufacture of motorcar tires. Until this time England was the greatest producer of rubber which was secured in Malay and Java in the East. This gave the British capitalists a monopoly over this indispensable commodity, and unabled them to dictate prices to the American manufacturers. This economic dependence upon the British did not suit the American imperialists, so that they began to look around to find some country in which they could secure their own source of raw

rubber and become independent of their British rivals. This hunt for a rubber base marked the beginning of Liberia's enslavement to American finance-capital.

President Hoover was at that time the American Secretary of Commerce. It was he who organized a conference of the automobile manufacturers of America and advised them to turn their attention to Liberia, the only territory except Abyssinia in Africa not yet stolen by the European imperialists, and which offered a means of solving the rubber problem then confronting the American capitalists.

With the assistance of Hoover and the Department of State, the Harvey Firestone Rubber Co., one of the biggest manufacturers of motorcar tires and rubber goods in America, secured a concession in Liberia of one million acres of land at the price of one cent per acre for the purpose of developing rubber. In return for this great concession, the Firestone Co. made a loan of 5 million dollars to the Liberian Government, which, however, the Liberians never received, for the Firestone Co. stipulated special terms to the effect that the money had to be spent in developing railroads, roads, and building a harbour in Monrovia by American engineers. The Liberian Government under pressure from Washington was also forced to agree to supply labour to the Firestone plantations.

This agreement was completed in 1925. Since then, Liberia has become an economic colony of American imperialism; and the peasantry, the slaves of the

Government and the Firestone Co.



Firestone and Ex-President King in conference over the sell-out of Liberia

Slavery and Forced Labour.

The conditions of the working class in Liberia, especially those in the interior, and the agricultural labourers on the American plantations and big farms owned by the native officials, are so disgraceful that an investigation had to be conducted this year. The commission which carried out the investigation was composed three men, one by the name of Dr. C. Christy, an Englishman, representing the League of Nations. Dr. Charles S. Johnson, a Negro college professor, representing the United States Government, and Edwin Barcley, Secretary of State of Liberia, who has since become president.

The commission discovered that slavery and forced labour were widespread throughout the country. The report pointed out that, most of the Liberian officials, known as Americo-Liberians, who control the Government, and were the very ones who made the agreement with the Firestone Co. in 1925, were forcing thousands of poor native peasants to work without wages under the most terrible conditions. But as to be expected from a commission which represented imperialist interests, it reported that Firestone did not use forced labour. This, however, is a lie. Every honest Liberian and West-African knows that thousands of natives are being robbed and ruthlessly exploited on the Firestone plantations. In this way the handpicked commission tried to whitewash the crimes of Firestone and his gang, and discredit the already corrupt Americo-Liberian officials, thereby, justifying the American imperialists with the tacit connivance of the League of

Nations, to openly annex the only remaining independent Negro country in West Africa.

The Negro Judasses.

The Negro workers in Africa, America, and the West Indies must realize that the enslavement of Liberia has not only been organized and carried out by the American imperialists and their white agents, but that the so-called "big" Negro leaders both in America and Liberia have been some of the most active tools of Firestone in helping to oppress the toiling masses of this "independent" republic.

This has openly been revealed by the fact that the American Government, which supports the policy of Firestone in Liberia, did not select a white official to represent the United States on the international commission as is its usual policy. On this occasion, the politicians in Washington departed from their traditional policy and appointed a Negro lackey, Dr. Johnson, to play the role of a Judas in covering up the crimes of the white American capitalists and help make it appear that only President King and his officials were guilty of extorting forced labour out of the indigenous masses.

This is nothing strange. It merely shows to the Negro workers that despite the fact that the Negro capitalists are members of the same race as themselves, the truth is, these people are always prepared to betray the interests of the toiling masses of their own race for the benefit of their white imperialist masters. Therefore, we must not only expose the connivance of Firestone, but we must brand these so-called educated Negroes as the greatest traitors of the working class.

The conduct of Dr. Johnson is not an isolated case. His part in the subjugation of the black workers and toiling poor of Liberia is being repeated by hundreds of other Negro middle-class elements in America, Africa and the West Indies, day after day. Everywhere we see black lawyers, doctors, preachers, editors, chiefs

and politicians openly going over to the side of the white oppressors.

As the capitalist crisis becomes more and more acute, the Negro capitalists, landlords, and phrase-making reformists are revealing themselves more and more before the hungry, overtaxed and unemployed Negro masses as their greatest enemies. Their acts of deception, betrayal and surrender of the national liberation struggles at this time clearly show that such scoundrels are incapable of leading the movement of the Negro peoples for freedom and social emancipation. Only the Negro working class in unity with the workers of other countries and races can fight the imperialists to a victorious end. These are the only sincere anti-imperialist elements whom the capitalists cannot corrupt and bribe.

Mr. Schuyler Exposed.

It is important for every Negro worker to take note that, whenever the American and other white capitalists have some dirty task to perform in connection with Negro countries like Haiti and Liberia, they always secure the services of some black lickspittle who is supposed to be a "big" leader of his race, pay him a few dollars or give hime some petty office and thereby get him to do the job for them. The usual policy in America is to have the President take his photo with the Negro in question or have a glass of tea, and the whole betrayal is settled. While in the British Empire, the King on the recommondation of the colonial governor confers some title upon the Negro lackey, and he will be prepared to surrender his people and country to the imperialists. France also pursues a similar policy as in the case of Blaise Diagne, the Senegalese Under Secretary for the colonies.

George Schuyler, the well-known Negro reformist newspaper correspondent, who poses before the oppressed masses of his race in America as one of their most "radical" leaders, to-day stands like Dr. Johnson, exposed as a mere demagogue, phrase-monger and fraud, who delights in making "left" speeches about "Negro freedom", "the liberation of the working class" and things of the sort, but does nothing to actively aid in carrying on the struggle against American imperialism. Behind this kind of "left" demagogue, Schuyler has been able to mislead certain sections of the Negro middle-class youth in America in supporting his petty shop-keeping schemes, but his recent conduct in connection with Liberia shows him for what he is, a tout of the ruling class of America and one of the greatest enemies of the Liberian masses.

Mr. Schuyler has tried his best to help the Firestone Co. to fasten its stranglehold over one and a half million black men, women and children in Africa. Let us

see how this lickspittle played his part.

Some months ago, Schuyler was sent to Liberia by a group of white capitalist newspapers, chief among J. P. Morgan's "New York Evening Post", for the purpose of completing the task which his bed-fellow, Dr. Johnson, started earlier in the year.

As to be expected of a typical middle-class phrasemonger, charlatan and bombast, Schuyler continued to whitewash the Firestone Co. of its crime against the oppressed masses of Liberia. The goodly gentleman was so hypnotized by what he considered an important journalistic mission for Wall street bankers, that all he could see was the misdeeds of a handful of native politicians like President

King and his gang, who after all, were the henchmen of Firestone.

The Americans now consider the time favorable to prepare the way for open annexation of Liberia, so their scheme is to mobilize the public opinion of the so-called civilized world — by this they mean the other imperialist nations — and have them believe that the American capitalists are more humane than the Liberian ruling class, and therefore justified to take over the full administration of the country in order to "safeguard" the interest of one and a half million natives who inhabit the hinterland, and who form the source of labour supply for Mr. Firestone and the other European imperialists who own plantations in the Congo, Fernando Po, and the Guinea Coast.

This is an old imperialist trick. But such is the stupidity of the man, George Schuyler, the lackey and intellectual prostitute of Messrs. Firestone and Co. that

he is unable to see through the whole nefarious scheme of his masters.

The capitalist proprietors and editors of the "New York Evening Post", the leading propagandists of American imperialist expansion in Africa, were so pleased with the slanderous articles of "Uncle Tom" Schuyler, especially his glorification of Firestone's love and kindness for the Africans (strange Firestone's philantropic reputation among his white slaves in his rubber factories in Akron, Ohio, is still to be discovered by Mr. Schuyler!), that they gave the widest publicity to the articles, not only in their own press, but they found Negro reformist papers like the "Pittsburgh Courier" base enough to publish this kind of imperialist propaganda against a little Negro state.

This again shows us how deprayed and bankrupt the vast majority of Negro newspaper editors are. They will sell themselves and the masses for a few crumbs from their overlords under the belief that they are supplying their readers with 'news'. This is just how Schuyler tries to cover up his treachery.

Now what is the purpose of this vicious campaign of lies carried on against this little Negro republic? On the one hand, the American capitalist press is trying to free Firestone of all responsibility for the widespread existence of forced labour in Liberia, and on the other, supporting the American capitalists in Africa by pointing to their moral obligation of setting themselves up as self appointed trustees like Great Britain.

This in brief is the whole motive back of all the dirty work started by the investigation commission and endorsed be the renegate and "socialist", George Schuyler.

America supported by League of Nations

The stage is fast being set for the final enslavement of Liberia. The next step will witness the open annexation of the country as a colony of Yankee imperialism under the guise of a mandate. Already some of the leading powers in the League of Nations have indicated their willingness to approve of such an step by America, notwithstanding the fact that Liberia is a member of the league, while America is not.

For example, in a symposium on Liberia published in "West African Review" (August 1931) — an organ of British imperialism — we quote the following illuminating excerpts which should tend to remove any doubts from the minds of the most naive people like Mr. Schuyler, concerning the attitude of the white imperialist powers towards this land of the blacks.

The Right Hon. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, M. P. Under-Secretary of State for the

Colonies in the late Conservative Government, writes:

"I hold very strongly that the European Powers, and particularly Great Britain, must keep out of Liberia and decline to take any responsibility whatsoever. The real responsibility already rests, and must continue to rest, on the Government and people of the United States of America. Rule in Liberia is exercised exclusively by American Negroes sent there, established, financed and supported by the United States. The United States in general, and the Firestone Company in particular have, de facto, a complete stranglehold over the country. (emphasis mine — G. P.) The financial adviser to the Liberian Government has always been an American. Only one Government has the Power to effect reform, and that is the Government of the United States — and having all the power and all the assets in its control it, eo ipso, has the responsibility."

Sir Alfred Sharpe, K. C. M. G., a British Colonial Governor, says:

"There is only one remedy, and that is for Liberian territory to be taken over by one of the white nations (emphasis mine — G. P.) and put in proper order. Who is to do this? It comes down to a question of America or England. There is only one other nation which might be said to be interested, individually, in Liberia, and that is France, for the reason that she would like to have a right of way from her own hinterland of French-Guinea across Liberian territory, to a port on the Liberian coast.

America is interested, firstly, from the fact that the United States were responsible for the creation of this Black Republic, and secondly, owing to their large financial interests there, the Firestone Rubber Company, and the loans

made from America." (emphasis mine — G, P.)

Mr. R. C. F. Maugham, C. B. E., who from 1913 to 1920 was His British Majesty's Consul-General in Liberia, has the open affrontry to remark:

"That Liberia should longer be permitted to remain an independent Republic is neither more nor less than a scandal which the League should lose no time in bringing to an end. It may safely be said that Liberians as a whole cannot be entrusted with the governance of between one and two millions of helpless Africans, nor should a division of the West African coast lands, situated between two progressive colonies, be permitted longer to stagnate in their unworthy,

incapable hands. That being the case, the administration of the country should be removed from their control, and handed by the League, under Mandate, to one or other of the great colonising powers." (emphasis mine — G. P.)

Yes, Mr. Schuyler and you other bankrupt and philistine misleaders of the American Negro masses, the proletarians of all lands will number you among those hangmen who helped the Yankee bankers to tie the final knot around the necks of the Liberian working class.

Now, what do the above quotations prove? They clearly expose the conscious policy of the capitalist powers to deprive Liberia of her sovereignty and to intensify the exploitation of the toiling masses of the country. Here again, we see the open robber-policy of the League of Nations which does not even make the usual diplomatic pretence of defending Liberia, but rather, is prepared to support America, a non-member, in stealing the territory of a member state.

This only shows the Negro masses and the working class in general the real character of the League — a combination of powerful imperialist powers dominated by England, France and Japan, whose sole purpose is to pounce down upon weaker nations, enslave the colonial and semi colonial masses of China and Africa and steal every foot of land from defenseless peoples and plan intervention in Soviet Russia. This is the only purpose for the existence of the League of Nations.

Workers Defend Liberia

The present situation in Liberia calls for the most determined struggle on the part of the international working class, especially the proletariat in America, against the ruthless exploitation of the American capitalists in Africa.

The Liberian situation clearly shows that whatever might be the contradictions and jealousies between the imperialist powers of Europe and America, when it concerns Africa and the Negro masses they are prepared to arrive at some common agreement for dividing the spoils and maintaining their domination over the African masses.

There is only one force that the imperialists are afraid of, and that is the organised working class and toiling peasantry of Africa, which, with support of the revolutionary working class movement of Europe and America alone can defeat and shatter the imperialist aims of American and League-of-Nations imperialism.

The Negro Workers' Congress Prediction True.

Already at the first Congress of the International Conference of Negro Workers held in Hamburg, Germany, in July 1930, the attention of the Negro toiling masses throughout the world was called to the danger of Liberia being deprived of the little freedom which it still enjoys by becoming an open slave colony of America, like the Philippines and Porto Rico, where there is not the slightest pretense of independence.

Furthermore, the Congress in a special resolution adopted against imperialism pointed out the diplomacy of the white imperialists in using the Negro national reformist leaders — like Marcus Garvey, Blaise Diagne of Senegal, Dr. Du Bois, William Pickens, Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Randolph, Schuyler, Kelly Miller, Dr. Moton, Oscar de Priest and others — as their agents in paving the way for increasing attacks upon the standard of life of the Negro masses.

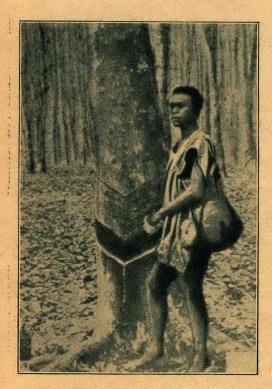
The Congress called upon the Negro workers not only of Liberia but the United States, the West Indies and other colonies to rally to the defence of the

national independence of the last black state in West Africa. In view of the increasing danger which threatens Liberia, it becomes the immediate duty of the Negro workers and their class-conscious white brothers, and all sincere and honest fighters against imperialism to organize protest mass meetings and demonstrate their solidarity with the Liberian working class against American imperialism, the League of Nations and their black lackeys.

Every opportunity must also be taken to expose the whole system of forced labour, slavery, unemployment, starvation, oppressive taxation, and official terrorism, which exists in the British, French, Belgian colonies, in South Africa, Kenya, Angola, Mozambique, and South-West-Africa, linking up the struggles of the Liberian masses with those of other parts of Africa who suffer even more terribly under the brutal whips of European slave masters.

What the Workers of Liberia must do

The very first task which stands before the workers, especially the seamen and dockers in the coast ports of Liberia, such as Monrovia, Great Bassa, is to organize themselves into trade unions as the basis for the development of a broad mass anti-imperialist movement; for only in this way will the Liberian workers be able to defend their economic interests and carry on the struggle for improving their political and social conditions.



Native worker collecting rubber on one of Firestone's Plantations

The Liberian workers must not put faith in the Americo-Liberian politicians, whether True Whigs or so-called opposition People's Party. These fakers, in the face of the growing indignation and protest of the masses against the foreign imperialists and the native oppressors, will try to deceive them with radical phrases, only to betray them as King and his handmen.

The workers must depend only upon themselves. They must develop leaders from the ranks of their class. People who feel oppression and exploitation, and will not desert the struggle or be bribed by the capitalists.

The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers will give its fullest support to the toiling masses of Liberia in building up an militant trade union movement which alone will guarantee an uncompromising struggle against Yankee Imperialism and the native exploiting class of capitalists, landlords and slave holding officials.

Forced Labour under the British Flag

In view of the vicious campaign of lies and slanders organized and carried on by the imperialist nations against the little Negro-republic of Liberia, it is necessary for the white workers in Europe and America to know a few facts about forced labour under the British flag.

England, however, is not an exception. All of the colonial governments in Africa apply the system of forced labour in their colonies. For example, in the French and Belgian Congo, hundreds of thousands of peasants are being driven away from their farms, collected together by the native soldiers under European officers and marched away to the mines and big plantations where they are compelled to work for little or no wages.

The same system applies to the Portuguese and Spanish territories of Angola, Mozambique, the island of San Tome, and Fernando Po where thousands of natives from all over the West African coast are being held as slaves on the cocoa

plantations.

However, it is in connection with the British Empire that we want to speak, for the ruling class of England and their colonial agents and missionaries tried to create the impression that the Africans and West Indians have no reason to complain, for England grants her subjects more "justice" and "liberty" than any other nation. All of which are lies, as the following facts will show. Let those who defend imperialism and justify the oppression of the colonial masses deny these facts.

Indentured Labour.

Forced labour for public works — roads, railways and "emergencies" — is legalised by the British Government in India, East Africa, Nigeria, Sierra Leone,

Cyprus, the Cameroons, the West Indies, Australasia and Oceania.

Indentured labour — by which native workers and coolies are transported from their homes to work on long-term contracts for nominal wages, which they do not receive until the end of their term — is employed by British capitalists in Australasia, Oceania, Malaya and many parts of Africa, the West Indies and British Guinea.

In South Africa the 211,600 native workers employed in the mines are herded into compounds and obliged to work out long-term contracts at starvation rates of pay. They are seperated from their wives and only allowed out of the compounds at certain hours.

On the farms owned by Europeans, where 2,000,000 South Africans are driven to work, women and children are bound to the farmers for 365 days a year; on some of the farms often no wages at all are paid; where wages are paid they are as low as 2s a month.

East Africans Finger Printed

The official report of the Kenya Native Affairs Department (East Africa) for 1929 shows that 11,437 Africans were called up by the Government during the year for forced labour for a total period of 108,113 days.

In addition 22,728 able-bodied male natives were engaged by recruiters to work for white employers on written contracts of service for periods of from 8 to

Any worker leaving his employment before the agreed term — however much he may be flogged, kicked and starved by the employer — is punished by law and sent to a detention camp, where he is employed on unpaid work and from which he is also frequently drafted to do unpaid work on the docks or railways.

The whole of the land of Kenya — 245,000 square miles — has been taken from the native inhabitants and declared to be the property of the British Crown — that is, of the 10,300 white inhabitants.

The 2,500,000 Africans are forbidden by law to live anywhere except in the overcrowded native "reserves" unless they are working for a white employer.

Every African is forced to carry a pass with his finger-prints on it, so that he can be readily caught if he escapes from his employment.

The average wage of an African worker is 6s. to 12s. a month; compulsory labour on the Kenya railways is pain at a rate of 14s. a month and "voluntar, labour" at 16s, a month.

The principle of taxing the native inhabitant so highly that he is forced to leave the land and work for a white employer is, in fact, universal throughout the British Empire.

West Africans worked to Death

In the Cameroons (West Africa), taken by the French and Britain from Germany after the war, forced labour is the chief source of supply for the coffee and other plantations, where 20,000 labourers are employed.

They are recruited by the chiefs and headsmen of the villages, assigned to the British companies who own the plantations, and given a wage of 10 cents a day.

In consequence of which, the vast majority on the West African workers are underfed, while infant mortality is very great, especially in Nigeria.

Those who work in the timber industry of the Bevin River territory are not paid regular wages, but merely supplied with a little food — rice and salted fish.

At the end of six months the British timber contractors give the men a few yards of cloth and a few shillings and send them back to their villages more dead than alive.

In India, evidence given before the Whitley Commission has shown not only that forced labour is openly in operation in many of the Native States (whose rulers were received with such delight by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald at the Round Table Conference), but that on the tea plantations the workers are "practically slaves and work under the threat of the whip." ("Liberty", April 10.)

Such is the system which the British workers and their children as well as the Negroes in Africa and West Indies are expected to pay homage to on Empire Day. The colonial masses must object to their children being fed on this kind of loyalty propaganda to an Empire which holds them as slaves.

Down with the British slave system!

Long live the freedom of the African and other Colonial toilers!

Colonial Masses in Revolt

The End of the Labour Government

The so-called Labour Government, the agents of British imperialism, has met with a smashing defeat by the National Government of die-hard conservatism.

MacDonald, the socialist hangman of the British workers and the most oppressive agent of the colonial masses of India and Africa, now stands exposed as one of the greatest enemies of the British and colonial working class.

MacDonald's betrayal of the British workers has not only brought the Labour Party to destruction, but he has payed the way for British imperialism to carry on its bloody policy of terror and massacre in the colonies under the banner of

a fascist National Government.

Therefore, it was not surprising that during the elections none of the capitalist parties — Labour, Liberial, or Conservative, dared to raise the question of India and Colonial Policy. Only the Communist Party proclaimed the right of the colonial people for self determination.

Neither the National Government nor the Labour Party "Opposition" of

Henderson dare bring the colonial question into the open.

Their solutions for every issue — whether unemployment, finance, foreign trade or the balancing of the Budget — depend basically on holding the colonies in subjection and increasing the tribute wrung from them by the British ruling class.

But the Empire crisis and the revolt of the colonial peoples, faring up again and again in ever greater dimensions, exposes the precariousness and impossibility

of this basis.

The recent news from the colonies alone is a warning signal of coming events.

Uprising in Cyprus.

On a small scale Cyprus is a typical example of British imperialist rule in the colonies.

The workers in the mines, the peasants in the fields are ruthlessly oppressed for the benefit of British imperialism. "Democratic" Government is non-existent. Strikes are a criminal offence. The Press is throttled by special legislation.

Nevertheless, a mass revolt has broken out against British imperialism. In this revolt the workers and peasants have come forward under the leadership of the

Communist Party.

In spite of the fact that the Party is, to all intents and purposes, illegal, and its newspaper suppressed, it leads the fight for the complete independence of Cyprus.

New Struggles in Indies.

From India comes news of a gathering storm. The special correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says the conditions of the peasants are "undeniably desperate", and the Congress extremists are planning a new revolt.

A new struggle is arising in India. The present news means that the Indian landlords and capitalists, acting through the Indian National Congress, have failed

in their endeavour to break and disperse the mass movement.

The Round Table Conference of Princes and flunkeys, with Gandhi put as the central figure to deceive the masses, stands exposed as a device for strengthening the stranglehold of British imperialism in India.

The Congress has surrendered the struggle for independence. But the masses of workers and peasants are already moving forward outside it under their own

leadership.

The lesson of the Meerut trial and the message of the imprisoned workingclass leaders are bringing forward the mass struggle against British imperialism to a new stage.

Terror in Ireland.

In Ireland British imperialism acts through the terror regime of the "Free State" murder gang.

A new law known as the Public Safety Act gives the police the full power to arrest and detain anyone on suspicion of misbehaviour, "actual or contemplated", and to require any individual to give full particulars of his movements and actions over stated periods.

They may enter and search any house without a warrant.

The old pretence of capitalist law that a man is treated as innocent until he

is proved guilty is openly thrown overboard.

Not only are all political offenders to be tried by special Military Tribunals with power to inflict the death penalty, but these trials will be conducted in secret, and any newspaper publishing an account of such a trial will be fined (for a first offence) £1,000.

This new reign of terror has been launched in the hope of crushing the growing revolutionary spirit of the Irish workers at a time of desperate crisis for capitalism.

The economic crisis in Ireland is a part of the crisis throughout the British Empire, and the capitalist Government of the Irish Free State is acting in conjunction with the Imperialist Government of Britain in imposing a new dictatorship.

Ireland is still bound to Britain, not merely by the tribute she has to provide

— the loans and annuities by which she is still paying off British landlords, officials
and police. She is also bound by the other provisions of the Treaty which gave
her "Dominion status".

The "defence" of the Irish Free State, for instance, is Britain's responsibility; in time of war or "strained relations", the Free State must give harbour and any other facilities the British Government requires.

Peasant Unrest in Africa.

The peasant masses of West Africa are organizing and fighting against the oppressive taxation policy of the Government. Revolts have already broken out among the peasants of Southern Nigeria, in the course of which the white officials, then responsible to the Labour Government, openly shot down over fourty unarmed women, many of whom were pregnant, while others had children in their arms. Since then, an uprising occured in the Kambia district of Sierra Leone, where the peasants refused to pay taxes due to the crisis and the great depreciation in the value of their produce. Here again soldiers were set to shoot down the natives under the excuse that their leader, Haidra, was a Mohammedan fanatic preaching disloyalty among the natives. Demonstrations and revolts against taxation are taking place every where in West Africa.

Despite this reign of terror, the African and other colonial peoples are determined to carry on the fight for national freedom from the yoke of the British

overlords.

Empire going to the Dogs.

The British Empire is going down in ruin and collapse.

The revolt of the millions of subject peoples is the rock on which the whole policy of the imperialist Labour Party is being shattered.

The alternative to sacrifice and starvation for British workers is not the "mobilizing of foreign investments" (as the Trade Union Congress proposes) or balancing the Budget by squeezing the colonial workers and peasants, but the ending of the Empire system in solidarity with the struggle for freedom of the exploited colonial peoples.

The growing revolt in the colonies is a bulwark for the struggle of the British workers. It is a guarantee of victory against the rule of plundering, para-

sitic British imperialism.

Support the Colonial Struggles.

Therefore, the British workers must support the struggle for the removal of the murderous forces of imperialism from the colonies, for the rights of working**Collection Number: AD1715**

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive Location:- Johannesburg ©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

class and peasant organizations, for the confiscation of imperialist property by the revolutionary workers, for the division of the big estates among the poor peasants and for the repudiation of imperialist debts.

Only in this way can the workers of Britain and the colonial masses free themselves from the imperialist chains of MacDonald and the National Government.

The Congo Uprising

By HUISWOOD.

Once again revolt is sweeping the Belgian Congo. In 1925, again in 1928 the revolt of the native masses was ruthlessly drowned in blood by Belgian imperialism. But despite the slaughter, the terrible oppression of the native masses of the Congo has once more forced them into revolt.

The economic crisis in the world of capitalism has greatly intensified the already existing crisis in the Congo. For example, the Union Minière du Katanga, which exploits seven copper mines, one iron mine, two tin mines and one radium mine, as well as several quarries, where over 20 thousand miners are employed, has greatly reduced production, with the result that the majority of the



While Gandhi is in London betraying the Indian masses, the British police are shooting and beating up the workers in Bombay and other towns

workers have been thrown on the streets to starve. No form of social insurance exists in the Congo.

The same situation prevails in the coal mines of the Luena Colliery Company, the tin mines of Upper Luapula district and the diamond works of the Forminière Company, in Kosai, where some 30.000 natives were formerly employed. All of the agricultural companies have also laid off hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers. This has created a starvation situation especially in the districts, where Lever Brothers hold tremendous palm Kernel concessions. Added to this, the peasants are unable to sell their crops and other raw products collected in the forests.

The great mass of natives who were driven from the lands to make way for the plantations of the Belgian and British imperialists and their social democratic agents are now helplessly herded together into the cities without jobs. Their plight is extremely miserable. Added to starvation, disease is playing havoc with the masses.

Without any hope of unemployed relief, and faced with the additional burden of still having to pay taxes to the government, the workers have been goaded into desperation and have openly revolted against their oppressors. Even some of the chiefs, the traditional agents of the imperialists who are still being compelled to squeeze taxes out of the workers who have absolutely no means of paying, have joined the revolt which is spreading from the cities into the villages and across the frontiers, into the French Congo and Angola.

The heaviest fighting between the revolutionary forces and the government troops took place in Kosai province, where 4000 natives, armed with muzzle-loading riffles smuggled into the Congo, defended the native villages against over-whelming forces armed with the most modern devices of warfare. Fierce fighting also occurred in the Kikuit district of Kwango, where the natives, unable to obtain arms were forced to fight for days with bow and arrows, but were finally overwhelmed by the military and their huts burnt to the ground after the villagers had retreated into the surrounding territory. It has been estimated that over 300 natives were massacred in this encounter. A Belgian official named Hallot and a few soldiers were killed by the insurgents.

In the Tukusu district, the peasants under chief Misugu had an encounter with 310 soldiers under European officers and drove them back for over two weeks before they were forced to surrender due to lack of ammunition.

Despite the butchery carried on by the Belgian soldiers against the natives, they have not yet been able to completely subdue all of the rebellions districts. New sections of the country are joining the revolutionary forces daily. According to the radios received by the Brussels paper "Soir", new revolts have again broken out in the Kwango district, where three trading factories, owned by the Kosai Company, have been burnt down by the rebels who are also attacking the Catholic missionaries, the religious agents of the Belgian capitalists and social democratic concession holders who have millions of francs invested in the Congo. Only the communists and the revolutionary trade unions in Belgium have shown solidarity with the African workers, by exposing the terrible exploitation of the natives and demonstrating in support of the revolt.

The Belgian imperialists are trying their best to crush the rising tide of rebellion, but the revolts of the native masses in Africa today have far greater possibilities of success than ever before. They come at a time when a Soviet Government has been established in China; when the Indian masses are in motion against the blood-thirsty British imperialists and when the working masses in the imperialist countries are taking up the counter-offensive against the starvation programme of world capitalism.

North Africa in Revolt.

All North Africa is also reported in revolt against the mass misery and starvation which is becoming ever more intense by reason of the deepening agrarian crisis. It is reported that in French, Italian and Spanish North Africa, European troops assisted by native contingents drawn from other sections of Africa, are carrying on a bloody campaign in an effort to stem the widening revolutionary upsurge.

In Tunisia, a French Colony, desperate attacks have been made by the native tribes upon the European settlements. The treacherous agreement made by Abdel-Krim has been repudiated by the natives.

The Fascist Government of Mussolini is using tanks, heavy artillery, airoplanes and all the modern means against the African revolutionists. The censorship is extremely rigid. Every attempt is being made to prevent news of the uprising filtering into other parts of Africa as this will inspire the natives of other sections to take up arms.

Negro Workers Starving in Cuba

By CHARLES ALEXANDER (Trinidad).

Among the colonies of American imperialism in the Caribbees where the workers are subjected to the most ruthless terror and oppression, Cuba looms most outstanding. With an industry mainly sugar producing, with thousands of workers, not only native Cubans, but a large percentage composed of Negro workers from the West Indian Islands, the working class of Cuba is met with savage repression and outright murder by president Machado and his henchmen, servile agents of American imperialism, when they show their determination to organize, unite and fight for improved conditions.

From nearly all the West Indian Islands, Negro workers emigrate to Cuba. The majority of them come from Jamaica, from which island many of them fled with the hope of escaping the cruel oppression of British imperialism. How often their hopes are dashed to pieces when they realize that American imperialism is equally as oppressive and tyrannical as British.

The great bulk of Negro workers of Cuba is employed on the sugar plantations. There, under the broiling sun, at times many of them dropping from sheer exhaustion, they toil from sunrise to sundown at wages of forty cents for every one hundred pounds of cane cut. Workers live in miserable hovels on these plantations. Many are the victims who have fallen prey to disease while making profits for the imperialist oppressors, and their bloody agents of the Machado regime.

Lured by the lying propaganda of the plantation owners of Cuba, Negro workers come from Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Grenada, and other West Indian Islands. Cuba is not the only colony of American imperialism in the Caribbean where the Negro workers find a life of hell. In Panama the oppression and persecution is intense; in Colombia, under the domination of the United Fruit Company, they live a life of misery and torture; while in Honduras, Guatemala, and San Salvador, a vicious situation exists. In Haiti, where the American imperialists have replaced Borno with an equally servile tool, Vincent, the bloody massacres of hundreds of Haitian workers and peasants in December 1929 are still fresh in the minds of the toilers. In Venezuela, under the ruthless oppression of the Gomez regime for the past twenty years, and in the islands under British rule,

a savage reign of terror exists. The island of Trinidad where the Negro workers are brutally exploited was declared under martial law in 1914 during a strike of longshoremen and remained so for a considerable period.

Against this cruel oppression of imperialism in the Caribbees, the Negro workers must join in solidarity with the East Indian and white workers and carry on a united struggle. The determination of the workers to organize is met with vicious repression from the imperialists and many revolutionary trade union leaders have been murdered by the oppressors. In 1925, Henry Varona, outstanding revolutionary trade union leaders have



Negro Workers on sugar plantation in Cuba

nary trade union leader, was murdered by the Machado government. In 1929, Julio Antonio Mella met the same fate in Mexico at the hands of the same butchers. Sandalio Junco, one of the ablest Negro trade union leaders, was deported to Mexico by the Machado government, while hundreds of other workers have been arrested, thrown into jails, many of them are still suddenly disappearing—murdered. Seven workers have just been deported to Spain for their militant activities.

The only way by which the Negro workers of the West Indies can hope to improve their standard of life is through organization and struggle. They must begin to build trade unions on the principle of the revolutionary class programme.

All West Indian workers and labor organizations in the Caribbean islands are invited to write to the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, which will render them every possible assistance in developing their labor movement.

The Anti-Imperialist Movement

Resolution of the League Against Imperialism.

The following is a part of the Political Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the League against Imperialism at its Session in Berlin on June 2nd, 1931.

The resolution deals with the growing anti-imperialist revolts of the colonial masses in Asia, Africa, Latin-America, and other colonial and semi-colonial countries.

All Negro workers, farmers, students and revolutionary intellectuals in Africa and the West Indies, are invited to write to the International Secretariat of the League against Imperialism, 24 Friedrichstrasse, Berlin, or to the British section of the League, 23 Great Ormond Street, London W. C. 1, or to the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, 8 Rothesoodstrasse, Hamburg, Germany, for literature and full information on the aims and programme of the League.

The International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers endorses this resolution and calls upon the workers of Europe and America throughout the world to support the anti-imperialist struggles of the African, West Indian and other colonial peoples.

Growing Anti-Imperialist Revolt of Colonial Masses.

a) Asia.

The struggle of all the oppressed peoples to release themselves from the yoke of imperialism has increased tremendously in strength and extent. In China millions of peasants under the leadership of the working class have formed their own armies and are now carrying on a heroic struggle against the forces of the counter-revolutionary Kuomintang and against the imperialists. The magnificent struggle of the Chinese workers and peasants for national independence, for the land, and for political power shows all other oppressed and exploited peoples the only way to victory in the struggle against imperialism.

In India the masses of the people are beginning to realise that emancipation from the yoke of British imperialism cannot be won with the treacherous tactics of passivity and non-violence, cannot be won by coming to compromises with the enemy. The working class in India is beginning to use the weapon of the mass strike. It is beginning to understand that a united front of hundreds of millions must be organized together with the broad masses of the toiling peasantry against British imperialism. Amongst the revolutionary youth and the revolutionary intellectuals there is a growing opposition to Gandhism and to "left-wing" social reformism. And at the same time there is an increasing tendency to take up a really revolutionary attitude towards British imperialism.

The oppressed masses of Indo-China are fighting desperately in the foremost ranks of the great anti-imperialist struggle and showing a magnificent front against the fearful white terror waged against them by French imperialism.

The revolutionary anti-imperialist struggle is surging higher and higher in Egypt, Palestine, Marocco, Tripoli, Syria, Algeria and all other Arabian countries. Italian fascism has succeeded in slaughtering tens of thousands of insurrectionary Arabs in Tripoli, but it has not succeeded in breaking their fighting spirit. The revolutionary insurrection of the masses of the Arab people in Spanish Marocco

and its bloody suppression by the provisional government of the bourgeois republicans and the Spanish socialists represents only the beginning of fresh

struggles in this section of Arabian territory.

Despite the brutal regime of terror established by Japanese imperialism, the colonial peoples under the Japanese yoke are conducting a heroic struggle for freedom. In Formosa there was an insurrection of the native tribes against the Japanese oppressors.

The workers of the Philippine Islands have now formed their own revolutionary working class party and under its leadership they are taking up the struggle

for freedom from the yoke of American imperialism.

Despite the banishment of thousands of Indonesian national-revolutionary fighters against Dutch imperialism, mass demonstrations are taking place in Indonesia under the banner of the struggle for national freedom from the yoke of Dutch imperialism,

b) The Negro Masses.

In South Africa, Madagascar, Kenya Colony, Gambia, Nigeria, the French and Belgian Congo, Guadeloupe, Honduras, San Domingo, the Negro masses have taken up arms in the struggle against imperialism. In South Africa in particular the movement has reached the state of a conscious class struggle on the part of the white and coloured workers (unemployed workers' demonstrations, the May Day demonstrations, strikes, etc.). New exceptional laws, the increasingly frequent confiscation of te land of the natives, the intensified terroristic measures of the white slaveholders, the new wave of terror, lynching and persecutions in the United States have been unable to stem the rising tide of the Negro struggle for emancipation from colonial imperialism. New and tremendous reserves are wheeling into the anti-imperialist fighting front.

c) Latin America.

In the countries of Latin America the anti-imperialist struggle of the workers and peasants against the "revolutionary" movements organized by various groups of capitalists and landowners and their generals, aimed at nothing further than replacing one system of imperialist oppression by another. The ceaselessly growing movement of the masses directs its blows impartially and with equal sharpness against both British and American imperialism.

The fighting in South and Central America, the interventions in China, the support of the Kuomintang government by the United States of America, the barbaric mediaevel persecutions of the Negroes, the slave relations existing in the southern States, etc., show the real face of predatory dollar imperialism.

The Executive Committee of the League against Imperialism sends its fraternal greetings to the heroic fighters for the freedom of Nicaragua who have defied

American imperialism weapon in hand for three years.

The Executive Committee denounces the crimes of the Mexican fascist government which is the perfidious instrument of American imperialism and which does not hesitate to organize massacres of the working people. The Executive Committee considers the struggles which are at present taking place in Honduras (great unemployed workers' demonstrations) and in Cuba (mass strikes) to be very important factors in the development of the anti-imperialist struggle. The Executive Committee considers that the necessary conditions for the formation of League sections as mass organizations are present everywhere in the countries of Latin America and appeals for new efforts to widen the mass basis of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Insurrections and mass movements are taking place in Egypt, Syria, Palestine. China, India, Indo-China, Marocco, Africa and Latin-America. The terrible pressure exerted by capitalist imperialism and the severity of the struggle in the most important colonial countries are leading more and more to the hegemony of the working class, the most energic and daring section of the masses, in the struggle of the oppressed nations against imperialism. The working class is the binding factor in the great united front of the oppressed peoples against colonialism.

Increased Imperialist Exploitation and Political Repression.

The imperialists are straining every nerve in order to crush the revolutionary anti-imperialist movement for emancipation. They are attempting to find a way out of the world economic crisis, which is a crisis of the whole capitalist system, at the cost of the oppressed colonial peoples by means of increased exploitation of the masses. The world economic crisis has tremendously increased the poverty, misery and exploitation of the toiling masses in the colonial countries. The world economic crisis and in particular the agricultural crisis, is nowhere so intense in its effects as in the colonial countries, where the frightful effects of the agrarian crisis reduces millions and millions to the point of starvation. Slave labour and forced labour are becoming to an ever increasing extent essentials of the imperialis colonial regime. The masses of the peasantry are coming more and more into the movement. They are surging up against the fortresses and strongholds of imperialism.

The intensification of exploitation in the colonial countries also effects the situation of the toiling masses in the countries of imperialism and increases their impoverishment. The result is that it is becoming clearer and clearer to the masses in the imperialist countries that their interests are identical with the vital interests of the toiling masses in the colonial countries.

Parallel with the increase of economic exploitation, the system of political oppression has also been intensified to a tremendous degree. The least movement of the masses against imperialism, the least attempt to found national-revolutionary organisations, or to organize the masses of the workers and peasants in trade unions, is countered with increased oppression, imprisonment and even physical destruction of tens of thousands of workers, peasants and students.

The fascist movement in all countries, which is conducting a chauvinist campaign of race hatred, is an instrument of imperialism for holding down the revolutionary mass movement particularly in the colonial countries (for instance, German fascist officers as technical advisers to the hangman Chiang Kai-shek).

Religion in the Service of Imperialism.

The growing indignation of the masses against imperialist oppression causes imperialism to use religious organizations to an increasing extent in its struggle against national and social emancipation. This can be seen in the crusade organized by the leaders of all the churches (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mohammedan, Hindu, Buddhist and others) against the Soviet Union, and also in the warlike attitude of the Vatican towards the Soviet Union, in the Papal Encyclical against socialism and communism, in Gandhi's utilization of religious propaganda in India, etc. All this, connected with the preparations for the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin next year, reveals the role of the leaders of religion as agents of capitalism and imperialism.

(To be continued.)

The Land of Socialist Construction

Two worlds: Socialism and Capitalism

By Hermann Remmele.

To which System Belongs The Future?

Two economic systems, which today dominate the world, stand sharply confronting one another: the socialist economic system in the new world, in the Soviet Union, and the capitalist economic system in the old world, in the capitalist countries.

To which system belongs the future? This question is to-day engaging the

attention of all peoples the world over.

The Soviet system prevails only in one sixth of the world — and nevertheless it already comes forward boldly and challengingly before all the world with the

inexorable question: For or against!

And here it is not a question merely of two economic systems but of two world systems, of two systems of culture, of the ascent of the whole of the human race "out of the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom" (Friedrich Engels), on to the place of free humanity, which will finally and irrevocably abolish all attributes of serfdom and slavery in order to become the real master of the world. "The fight for mere individual existence is ceasing. Thereby mankind, in a certain sense, first passes finally from the animal world, from the animal conditions of existence, into real human conditions." (Friedrich Engels: Anti-Dühring.)

The longing and hope for the advent of Socialism, for the socialist order of society, is as old as oppression and exploitation, serfdom and slavery, wars and

crimes of all sorts — in fact it has existed ever since class society existed.

For thousands of years two world systems have confronted one other in the thoughts and aims of men: the world of class societies, with all their insane barbarities and suffering, the world of all against all — and the hoped and longed — for world of Freedom, Equality and Brotherhood for all members of the human

race, the classless society - the world of Communism.

That which the millions of victims of the world rule of robbers and exploiters hoped and longed for, that which the exploited and oppressed of the whole world at all times yearned for, that which the best thinkers of humanity foretold, is to-day, for the first time in the history of humanity, in the Soviet Union, becoming true, becoming a reality! That for which millions of men and women in all ages joyfully sacrified for, for which millions have fought and died — we to-day see rising before our eyes. It is to-day being fulfilled for the first time in the history of humanity!

To have accomplished the greatest world-historical deed of all times, that is the great pride and the greatest merit of the class which alone can accomplish this great historical work, the modern proletariat! No other class in the history of the world has ever been able to accomplish anything grander and more sublime. The modern proletariat is the first representative of humanity freed from barbarism.

The work of Socialism in the Soviet Union is the work of the modern world proletariat, the first stage of the world revolution!

It was the imperishable work of the founders of modern Socialism, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, to bring to birth modern, scientific Socialism. It was the

Russian proletariat which, 14 years ago, under the leadership of its Bolshevist Party, under the leadership of the greatest Socialist after Marx and Engels — Lenin — converted the lifework of Marx and Engels from science into fact. From Utopia to Science — from Science to Fact — that is the prehistory of socialism.

There is now commencing the history of Socialism itself. Socialist construction! Socialist economy! Socialism in fact! The socialist society! The socialist man! The socialist humanity!

Capitalism On The Decline.

On the one side, gigantic progress which everyone has to admit — on the other side, crisis, bankruptcy, collapse.

Two ways — two processes of development are taking place in diametrical antagonism to one another.

In the capitalist world: decline and collapse, decay, bankruptcy and despair, millions of unemployed, misery and poverty for the masses, hunger in the midst of plenty, the million masses in need of everything and at the same time insane destruction of vast stores of food, insanity and crime wherever one looks.

In the socialist world: progress and tremendous development of industry, commerce, transport, agriculture and all branches of production. No unemployment, but a shortage of labour power. Increase of wealth for all, work and bread for all

In the capitalist world: economic crisis such as the world has never seen before, bank failures, financial collapses, credit difficulties, inflation, chaos, panic.

In the socialist world: Increasing consolidation, investments of thousands of millions without any foreign credits or financial assistance, stability of currency, increase of the people's income.

In the capitalist world: industrial bankruptcies, closing down of whole industries, shutting of the most modern factories and works, scrapping of the most up-to-date machines.

In the socialist world: opening of new factories, setting up of new industries, introduction of the most modern plant and the employment of the most modern machines, such as are unknown, even in the most developed capitalist countries

In the capitalist world: agrarian crisis, decline and ruin of the peasantry.

In the socialist world: collectivisation, tremendous improvement in the conditions of the peasantry.

These are only a few comparisons:

Two worlds — two systems — two processes of development.

World history has opened a new volume. The prehistory of humanity is coming to an end. The history of humanity is beginning!

Socialism Marches Forward!

Two worlds stand sharply confronting one another; the capitalist world and the socialist world! To which world belongs the future?

This question is to-day already decided!

The ruling classes in the old capitalist world can cling as much as they like to traditions, to habits, to the most modern means of power and systems of oppression, to their rights and privileges; all the means of power of the ruling classes and castes will no longer help them: Socialism is on the march! To-day, in the year 1931, one can no longer deny or simply scorn and jeer at the power, the strength and the thousandfold superiority of the socialist system over the capitalist system, as our opponents were wont to do some years ago. The "mighty" ones of the capitalist world are trembling before the advance of Socialist

construction in the Soviet Union. The mockery and scorn which they once so generously cast on the "phantastic Bolshevist experiment", have become a thing of the past.

The fact that the worst enemies of the working class, the enemies of the toilers of the whole world are now compelled to take the Soviet system seriously and to recognize its successes, is the result not only of the powerful advance of socialist construction. This recognition is before all enforced by the fact that the gigantic, unexampled progress of socialist economy in the Soviet Union synchronises with a terrible, hopeless crisis, with the bankruptcy of the capitalist economic system.

International News in Brief

Facts Worth Knowing

1. Discipline in Navy Blown to Hell.

The strongest support of British imperialism is crumbling. Within the British navy, revolts against the burdens of the crisis have made themselves felt. The British Government attempting to increase its income and balance its budget, declared a 3% reduction in the salaries of its naval officers, 10% cut for the non-commissioned officers and 25% in the pay of certain classes of the seamen. These who are worst paid and who are unable to help their suffering families to any great extent find that the Government now seeks to shift its burdens upon their shoulders

The reduction of only 3% in the wages of the highly paid officers showed very clearly to the sailors the interest these officers represent and the interest the Government is protecting. The sailors on the Hood and the Nelson, Great Britain's mightiest battleships, struck against this wage cut and their course was followed by the sailors on other ships.

The strike itself was a tremendous blow to the British ruling class which understands fully well the importance of preventing radical doctrins finding their way into the armed forces. But the greatest blow came, when these striking sailors sang the revolutionary song Red Flag. Here was evidence that the force that maintains British imperialism in power, enabling it to exploit and oppress millions of Indians, Africans and Chinese, was no longer to be considered entirely reliable.

The unrest within the British Navy, may be momentarily quelled, but it will never be fully extinguished and will break out with greater violence in the very near future. The unrest of the sailors in the British Navy is part and parcel of the unrest seething in the masses of India, Africa and China against the exploitation and oppression of the British ruling class. This unrest will finally express itself in a revolutionary upsurge that will overthrow British imperialism, its tools and parasites.

2. Mass Demonstrations in Grenada,

The Government of Grenada, one of the three Windward Islands, in consequence of public protests and demonstrations, has suspended the operation of the drastic increases in taxation recently imposed for the purpose of balancing

the Budget. All business firms and shops closed their doors in sign of sympathy with the demonstrators and trade was at a standstill in St. George's. The Government was compelled to cancel its plan in order to prevent a general uprising. Workers in the other Islands must follow this example.

3. Industrial Progress in Russia.

In 1913 Russia occupied the fifth place in the world output of iron and steel. In 1931 the U.S.S.R. is surpassing Great Britain and Germany, and in 1932 it will surpass France and occupy second place - next to the U.S.A. Tsarist Russia produced in 1912, 3,500,000 tons of iron and 3,400,000 tons of steel. The Soviet Union produces in 1913, 8,000,000 tons of iron and 8,800,000 tons of steel. In 1932 it will produce 17 millions tons of steel and an equal amount of iron.

Coal. In the output of coal, Russia occupied in 1913 the fifth place in the world. In 1930 the U.S.S.R. excelled France, in 1931 it reaches the level of Germany, and in 1932 it will occupy the third place after the United States and Great Britain.

Oil. In 1912 tsarist Russia produced 9,100,000 tons of oil. In 1931 the U.S.S.R. output is 27,600,000 tons. The Soviet Union has carried out its five-year program cf oil production in 21/2 years and is now occupying the second place after the United States. Soviet output of oil is still increasing and nearing the first place in the world.

Electricity. In 1912 Russia produced 1,945 million kilowatt hours. In 1931 the U.S.S.R. produces 12,700 million kilowatt hours and is about to occupy one of the

leading positions in the world.

Agricultural machinery. The U.S.S.R. will occupy in 1932 the first place in the world in the production of agricultural machinery, leaving the U.S.A., Canada, France and Germany way behind.

4. Negro Worker Praises Soviets.

Robert Robinson, a West Indian Negro worker who is employed as a mechanic in the Stalingrad Tractor Plant in Soviet Russia, is spending his vacation in France and Germany. He speaks very enthusiastically about the Soviet Union and the building of the Five Year Plan and has the highest praise for the treatment of Negro workers by the Soviet workers and officials.

Robinson is the worker who was attacked by two white Southern Americans, Lewis and Brown, while in Soviet Russia. These two men were arrested, tried and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment by the Soviet court, but as they later apologized very humbly to Robinson, the sentence of one was changed to deportation and the other was pardoned and allowed to remain.

This is how the Soviet workers defend Negroes and all other oppressed peoples. Race prejudice is not tolerated in Soviet Russia where the revolution

has abolished all forms of colour and national distinction.

5. American Bank for Liberia.

The Firestone Rubber Company has further strengthened its financial hold over Liberia by establishing a Bank in Monrovia in place of the British Bank of West Africa which was forced to close down because of the increasing influence of American imperialism in the country. The manager is Peter Davidson, a white man, formerly connected with National City Bank, the same New York bank which stole all of the gold out of the Bank of Haiti in 1915. While United States marines guarded the streets, the porters took the bags of money on board an American ship.

Liberians, look out!

6. Increasing Unemployment.

To save themselves from difficulties, the capitalists are attacking the workers. Lowered wages and unemployment have curtailed working-class consuming power, but every cut in working-class standards has been inevitably reflected in lowered production and lessened trade, leading to still further increase in unemployment. This is the vicious circle.

Great Britain has nearly 3.000.000 unemployed, France has over 3.000.000, Germany has 4.484.000, while America has even more than 12.000.000.

Not only those countries which have long been in trouble are experiencing serious difficulty, but also countries such as Holland, Switzerland and the Scandinavian nations which have hitherto been considered sound.

7. Demonstrations against Starvation.

Over 30.000 white and coloured workers demonstrated in New York in favour of unemployment benefit.

10.000 workers attended a similar meeting in San Francisco. This demonstration was attacked by the police and many workers were injured. The police made a number of arrests.

Mass demonstrations are now becoming a daily feature of life in Great Britain. All over the country, the masses are demonstrating against wage reduction and for relief.

More than 150.000 workers and unemployed participated in the demonstrations in Glasgow, while many more thousands accompanied the marchers along the route.

Two great demonstrations of over 100.000 workers took place in London. All the traffic in the center of the city was held up. The police tried to break up the meetings that were later held in Hyde Park, but without success. After the meeting, many thousands proceeded to the prison where Hannington, the leader of the unemployed, and others were serving sentences, and demandet their release.

Big demonstrations were also held in Manchester, Derby, Rochdale, and other cities. Colonial workers, follow your British brothers — Demonstrate!

8. Labor Shortage in Soviet Russia.

2.000.000 industrial workers are urgently needed to complete and man important industrial units under the Five Year Plan. The building trades alone is in need of at least 500.000 workers. Walter Duranty, the Moscow correspondent for the "New York Times", writes that

"in this period of world wide economic distress, when unemployed are numbered by millions in every large industrial country, there is no unemployment in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. On the contrary, there is an actual shortage of labour everywhere, from factory operatives and construction gangs to white collar clerks and movie actors, which is reckoned at fully 2.000.000 today."

This is the difference between Capitalism and Socialism.

9. New Organizations for Negro Seamen.

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers, held in Hamburg, and attended by delegates from England, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, China, Greece, Spain, Italy, and a representative of the Negro Workers, the question of organizing the Negro and other colonial seamen and dock workers was discussed and decided upon. The meeting pointed out how the capitalists and shipowners were attacking the con-

ditions of the marine workers by cutting down their wages and throwing them on the streets to starve; and whenever the workers attempt to fight back, the refor-

mists unite with the bosses in breaking the strikes.

How this attack is affecting the colonial workers and how the forces of imperialism are used to bring down the wage standards of all workers (those of the imperialist countries as well as those of the colonies) was clearly brought out by the representatives of the Negro workers and the Chinese, and the English representative who related the conditions of the Indian seamen. The Seamen and Harbour Workers' International therefore decided to help the West African and West Indian seamen and dockers to organize strong unions by establishing seamens' clubs in Dakar, French West Africa, Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Jamaica and Trinidad, in the West Indies.

The Negro seamen and dock workers in these ports are invited to write to the Negro Workers Committee, 8 Rothesoodstrasse, Hamburg, or to the Seamen's Minority Movement, 233 High Street, Poplar, London, for full information.

10. Profits from the Colonies.

According to the British Financial Journal, the "Economist", in the 12 months, June 1930 to June 1931, 2.053 companies made a total profit of £ 187.583.541. Of this total 61.2 per cent, of £ 114.731.214, was paid out in ordinary dividend. The

average rate of these dividends was 8.4 per cent.

Now we would like to ask the question: From where did the bulk of the profits come? The answer is: From the colonies — India, China, and Africa, where hundreds of millions of coolies and "niggers" are made to toil from morning until night to supply super-profits for the British bankers, absantee landlords and parasitic dukes and lords and their idle women.

11. Negro Lawyer sees Communism as the only Way to Freedom.

"Soviet Russia is the only country that offers liberty and equality to all people, black and white. When I go home to America I will tell my people, the Negroes, that their salvation lies in Communism."

This from an interview appearing in the Moscow News of September 17th, 1931, with Raymond Pace Alexander and his wife, both Negro attorneys from Philadelphia. Alexander is further quoted in the Moscow News as follows:

"There has been a tremendous Negro movement toward Communism in the past few years. Our people have been coming to us, asking us questions about socialism and are anxious to know if the Soviet government in Russia was as it is painted. I came to find out, so that I could give them first hand information.

"I shall tell them that Communism offers the only government of the masses."

"Why did I come to Moscow?" continued Alexander in the Moscow News interview. "I would go to the Antarctic circle to see the breakdown of the abominable system which holds the Negro in social and economic bondage."

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander were fascinated with the Museum of the Revolution. They want a museum like it in the United States to show the struggle of the Negro people toward freedom and equality.

12. Women Out To Fight Taxation.

A delegate conference of working women from all parts of South Africa was recently convened in Johannesburg. This conference was called in order to unify and consolidate the sectional struggles of women taking place in all parts of the

country, and to organize a permanent organization of struggle for the working women of South Africa.

Mass meetings at factories and in residential areas were held to popularize the conference which took place as an answer to the new government measures forcing the women of South Africa into the position of serfs by compelling them to carry passports and other tax papers.

The conference expressed its determination to mobilize all of the native women of South Africa to follow the heroic example of their class sisters in Southern Nigeria, who refused to pay taxes and organized a demonstration of 30,000 against the British tax collectors.

13. Three Negroes on Delegation to Russia.

Among the foreign workers' delegation which visited Soviet Russia to witness the 14th anniversary celebrations in Moscow on November 7th, were three Negroes from the United Staates.

One of the Negro delegates is a marine worker, Morris Wikman, of New York, a member of the Marine Workers Industrial Union. Another is J. W. Jones, of the bituminous coal district of Pennsylvania, who was elected by the striking miners. A third is a steel worker from Gary, Indiana.

The delegates will spend about five weeks in the Soviet Union, visiting the chief industrial and agricultural areas and observing the great progress that is being made under the Five-Year-Plan of Socialist Construction. The Negro delegates will be given special opportunities to study the situation of the formerly oppressed national minorities and to compare the freedom they have won with the persecution of the Negro people in the United States, Africa and the West Indies.

The Friends of Soviet Russia, which organized the foreign delegations, would like to organize a group of African and West Indian workers for a similar trip to Russia, but the British, French, and other colonial governments don't want the Negro masses in the colonies to know the truth about the Soviet Union, so they will not grant the natives passports. The workers must first of all organize labor unions and demand the right to travel wherever they want as free human beings. Write to the international office of the Friends of Soviet Russia, Dorotheenstrasse 77, Berlin, or to the British section, 7 John Street, London W. C., for information about trips to the workers' republic.

14. Negro and White Workers on Strike.

The ports of Galverston and Houston in the State of Texas, America, were completely tied up when white and Negro longshoremen, organized and unorganized, stuck solid in a strike against a wage-cut.

The majority of longshoremen in these ports are Negroes. Over 4.000 walked out when the steamship lines posted a cut in wages from 80 cents to 65 cents an hour on the expiration of the agreement with the International Longshoremen's Association. The shipowners immediately began hiring unorganized Negro and white workers to scab but this force walked out 100 percent when they learned of the strike.

15. 30,000 Haitians Stranded in Cuba.

More than 30.000 Haitians who were brought to Cuba previous to the year 1928 to be employed in the cutting of cane and sundry labour in connection with the manufacture of sugar are to-day considered as a public charge and the Government will immediately take steps to have them returned to their native land.

For this purpose the Military Supervisor of Immigration in Santiago de Cuba had an extensive conference with the dictator Machado, before the latter left the palace for his farm on the outskirts of Havanna.

It is understood that the Chief of State approved of the plan to have these workers without homes or means to earn a living re-embarked for Haiti as early

as possible.

These workers will be shipped back like cattle to starve in their native land. The American sugar companies which exploited them for years have no relief to give. This is how the Negro workers in the West Indies are treated by the imperialists and their own native capitalist class.

16. Railway Construction in the Congo.

It will have cost the French Government nearly 3,000,000 pounds sterling, when the only railway in the French Congo, covering a distance of about 380 miles, is completed. It was begun ten years ago, and will take another three or four to complete. The line will link up the new harbour of Pointe Noire on the coast with Brazzaville, the capital of the French Congo situated on the Stanley Pool.

Half of the line, which is called the Congo-Ocean Railway, is already constructed from the two ends at Pointe Noire and Brazzaville. The harbour of Pointe Noire an the Atlantic Ocean will be very large when completed. The work is still in progress, but already a line of steamers calls there from Bordeaux.

The chief purpose of this railway is to convey black soldiers recruited by compulsion from among the workers and peasants in the Congo for service in

Europe when the next war breaks out.

During the last war, France with the aid of the Negro Senator, Blaise Diagne, the present Under-Secretary for the colonies, recruited an army of over 200.000 Africans and caused them to be slaughtered like hogs on the battlefields of Europe all in the name of "Democracy" and "Liberty". This time France plans to use even greater numbers not in the name of "democracy" and "liberty", as the blacks can no longer be fooled with such catch words, but against "Bolshevism" and the "Red menace".

The Negro workers in America and the colonies must get wise to the schemes of the capitalists and don't let themselves be used for cannon fodder in the coming war.

Gandhi in London.

The trusted servant of British imperialism and the Indian capitalists — Mahatma Gandhi — according to the British press in his first speech in London declared "that he was willing to cooperate in the establishment of the union between England and India with all his ability." It was not his intention — he said — to cause unpleasantness to the British Government, his only object being to be recognized as a fully fledged citizen of the British empire.

No word of demand for complete national independence and national liberation from the British yoke. His speech was heartily applauded by the

British imperialists.

For the working masses this is added proof of the fact that Gandhi is nothing else than a barefaced traitor and a "show man" for the Indian capitalists and landlords.

Capitalist Terror

Editor's Note: — As the world economic and financial crisis gets worse, the capitalists of all countries become more and more frantic and in their desperation to crush the rising revolt of the masses resort to the most barbarous and inhuman methods of torture against the workers and their leaders.

That is the reason why we are witnessing such a wave of lynching of Negroes in the United States; murder of revolutionary workers by fascist gangsters in all capitalist countries as well as the most unheared of forms of cruelty against the workers and peasants in China, India, South Africa and other semi-colonial countries.

Because of the rigid news control maintained by the various colonial governments and strict censorship of the native revolutionary press, it is very difficult for information relating to police terrorism and brutality by government officials to reach the so-called civilized world.

Nevertheless, we shall try to collect and publish all cases of terrorism in the pages of the "Negro Worker", in order to bring them to the attention of the workers in the mother countries and help to mobilize them in support of the struggles of their colonial comrades.

We appeal to all of our readers to send us news of class outrages perpetreated against Negro workers in Africa, America, the West Indies. or Latin America.

In this connection it is necessary for the Negro workers and anti-imperialist fighters to become acquainted with the Red Aid or the International Labour Defense, a world-wide organization which mobilizes the toiling masses and leads the fight against capitalist brutality and police terrorism on behalf of the working class and all fighters against imperialism.

The International Red Aid is one of the most loyal and uncompromising defenders of the Negro race in all parts of the world and deserves the support of every Negro worker. We shall be glad to supply you with copies of its programme. Write us to-day for literature about the Red Aid.

Under the Banner of The Red Aid

1. Africans Organized to Fight Oppression.

As a result of the brutal murders committed on two Africans, and the arrest of thirty other Negro workers during a demonstration in Durban on Dingaans' Day, the workers of South Africa have organized a section of the International Labour Defense for the purpose of assisting to the very utmost revolutionary fighters and their families who may be arrested, deported, imprisoned, wounded, or killed.

Although there have been existing groups of the International Labour Defense in South Africa already, these groups were brought into a national organization at the conference which took place at Johannesburg. This new South African organization will be known under the Bantu name of Ikaba Iaba Sebenzi, "The Shield of the Workers". The principal speaker was Comrade Hetty Nkosie, a native woman worker, whose husband, Comrade J. Nkosie, a leader of the South African Communist Party, was murdered by the police in Durban.

The conference received a cablegram of greetings from the International Labour Defense, which expressed the hope that it will develop into a real mass organization of the African workers and the white workers, helping them to carry

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive Location:- Johannesburg ©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

on their struggle for freedom and defense of the oppressed workers of South Africa.

2. Arab Rebel Leader Hanged.

Reports from Rome state that Omar Almunter, the leader of the Arabian rebels in Kerina-ike, who for many years has fought against Italian imperialism has been arrested and hanged.

3. Mass Pressure Gains Reduction of Sentences.

The organizers of the strike among the fruit-packers in the Imperial Valley. California, America, who were arrested and sentenced to fourty-two years in jail have had the sentences reduced to five years through mass pressure and great



International solidarity with Negro Workers, 100,000 workers demonstrating at Hamburg, Germany, for international solidarity and against imperialism in Africa

demonstrations of the American workers. Two of the convicted men are to be deported to Panama and Mexico respectively after having served their sentences. The workers are not yet satisfied and will continue to agitate and demonstrate until their comrades are entirely freed. They have also pledged themselves to see that no deportation takes place.

4. West Indian Leaders Jailed.

Two leaders of the Native Defenders Committee, an organization of the Negro masses of Jamaica which is organizing the workers of Kingston and carrying on the struggle against British imperialism and the local autocratic European official-dom have been arrested on a frame-up charge of "sedition" and after a farcical trial before a white capitalist judge, sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. This is how Great Britain hopes to maintain her domination over the Negro masses in

the West Indies. Behind all of the empty, bombastic boast of the British colonial rulers about "Democracy" and "Justice", is the rule of gun-boats, machine guns, bayonets, and the prison cells. Whenever the Negro masses in Africa and the West Indies attempt to organize and demand their rights, the government immediately raises the cry of "Bolshevism" and resorts to the most repressive methods against the working class leaders under the pretext of maintaining "law and order". Police terrorism is so widespread in the British colonies that even the most elementary rights of freedom of assembly, speech and press are denied to the native masses.

5. Flogging Legalized in Rhodesia.

Southern Rhodesia is one of the latest so-called self-governing dominions of the British Empire where a few thousand whites impose their will by armed force on many hundreds of thousands of defenceless natives. To-day there is a law called the Native Juveniles Act in operation which provides for a system of indentured labour or camouflaged slavery for native children under the age of 14.

This Act also permits the flogging of native boys on a complaint from any white capitalist or manager or if a Government official considers they have refused to obey any order.

6. Another Sample of British "Democracy".

For reprinting in his newspaper articles from the Daily Worker, published in the United States, Herbert Barnes, a native of Jamaica, is being persecuted by the Jamaica government.

Barnes has been forced into hiding following a fine of 50 dollars in the

Kingston courts which he was unable to pay.

The British bosses and imperialist agents are trying to prevent the Negro masses from knowing what is going on in the advanced countries. They are afraid that the savagely oppressed native masses would draw inspiration from the struggles against starvation of militant Negro and white workers in the United States and England, and also begin to organize unemployed councils and demand food, clothes and free rent from the government.

The native masses are suffering frightfully as a result of the growth of mass unemployment, starvation, and lowering of wages with which the colonial bosses and the absentee landlords, who own the sugar and banana plantations, are trying to shift the full burden of the crisis on the backs of the workers and peasants.

Barnes had only recently started his paper, and printed it as a one sheet newspaper. Most of its material was quoted from the Daily Worker, and other English and American working class papers, which his friends sent him. The paper was eagerly read by Jamaican workers. The heavy fine against him represents a brutal attempt by the British officials to kill the paper and in this way keep the workers ignorant of what is going on in the outside world.

7. Chinese Leader Beheaded.

In no country is the terror against the working class so great as in China, where war lords and generals, supported by the imperialist powers of America, England, France, Italy and Japan, are carrying on war among themselves and extorting the very last cent out of the working class and peasantry through taxation. Workers who protest and organize the masses against this system of robbery are immediately arrested and handed over to the hangmen of General Chang-Kai-Shek who is supported by American dollars and battleships.

Among the most recent victims of capitalist terror in China, was Comrade Hsiang, the secretary of the Communist Party of China and one of the most heroic leaders of the Chinese revolution. Comrade Hsiang was president of the Hupeh Federation of Labour and had a long history of struggle in the revolutionary working-class movement. He was a delegate to the Pan-Pacific Trade Union in 1927. He was a member of the executive committee of the All-China Labour Federation and was one of the organizers of the first big railroad strike in China in 1923. The strike was directed against the war lord, Wu-Pei-Fu. The majority of the strike leadership was executed at the time, but the strike marked the beginning of the downfall of Wu-Pei-Fu.

8. Trade Union Secretary Faces Death,

Since the execution of Hsiang, the Secretary of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union, comrade R. Ruegg, and his wife have been arrested in the International Settlement in Shanghai and handed over to the police of Chang-Kai-Shek. Ruegg has been sentenced to death and his wife to imprisonment for life.

All such facts only prove that the Chang-Kai-Shek forces who are now trying to drown in blood the Chinese peasants and workers fight for freedom from white imperialism, are working hand in hand with the imperialists. The question which stands before the Negroes and other oppressed peoples to-day is not one of colour, but class. Here we see Chinese capitalists and their war lords killing off Chinese workers and their leaders in the interest of European and American imperialists.

The Negro masses must see in the struggles of the Chinese workers and peasants a part of their own struggle. They must rally to the defense of all sincere revolutionary working class fighters who champion the cause of millions of oppressed peoples, whether they be Chinese, Indians, Negroes or whites all of whom are under the same imperialist yoke.

9. Africans sold to Farmers.

The "Forward", a newspaper printed in Glasgow, Scotland, recently published the following facts about the Negro workers in South Africa and the West Indies: Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl is still going strong about the question of "slave-labour" in Russia.

But what has she to say about the statement made by the Minister of Justice

for South Africa in a reply given to a question.

According to a cutting ("The Natal Mercury") which a South African correspondent sends us, the Minister of Justice said:

"that the system of hiring out prison labour had worked well for the past 18 years, and a revenue of £ 120,000 a year was brought in. My own idea is that if possible that amount should be doubled. My offer at Bethal was made to every farmer. If we succeed in getting farmers to take all the convicts we can supply - some 5,000 - it would be a very fortunate thing indeed for the Treasury. So far, the system has worked extremely well. There is a lot of money involved in it, and I am not prepared, Convention or no Convention, to depart from that system.

After further discussion the vote was agreed to."

So is the Duchess now prepared to demand that we should shut out all imports that come to us from South Africa?

"And by the way, it is six months ago since we asked the Duke of Atholl to tell us what wages are paid to the natives that are employed on the sugar estates

in Jamaica owned by the company of which he is a director.

And how do the wages and conditions of the natives that load the West Indian ships with Elder's and Fyffe's bananas (the Duke is a director of the Banana Combine) compare with the wages of the workers who load the ships with Russian timber?"

10. Lynch Terror in America.

From an Appeal of the International Labour Defence.

The shooting of Willie Peterson in the country jail at Birmingham, Ala., and the murder of John Grayford and Edward Jackson at an unemployed demonstration in Cleveland, Ohio, are the latest bloody crimes in the growing murderous terror of the rich white ruling-class against the oppressed Negro masses and

against the entire-working class.

Peterson, an unemployed Negro miner and ex-serviceman who had been vainly trying to get into the US. government hospital for veterans to secure treatment for tuberculosis, is the latest victim of the brutal boss campaign to frame-up, murder, and terrorize Negroes, following the murder of two society women. Augusta Williams and Jennie Wood, early last August. This Negro worker was deliberately shot in jail by Dent Williams, at a conference attended by city and county officials and members of the families of the slain girls.

The jailing of Lowell Wakefield, southern organizer of the I.L.D., and Harry Jackson, district organizer of the Communist Party, and the furious drive to destroy every bit of genuine working-class organization, clearly show this whole campaign to have nothing whatever to do with the discovery and punishment of the real murderer of the two society women, but to be in fact a most ferocious ruling-class drive of terror to crush the rising struggles of the Negro

workers and of their white working-class allies.

The murder of two unemployed Negro workers, John Gravford and Edward Jackson, by the bosses' police thugs in Cleveland at a demonstration against eviction, follows closely upon the shooting of Peterson. Four white and Negro workers were seriously wounded and scores of workers, including H. Larkin, organizational secretary of the Communist Party, are held in jail, prevented from seeing anyone. This is the latest of the many widespread murderous attacks upon the millions of starving, jobless workers, white and black. Only a short while ago the Chicago police murdered four Negro workers while they were resisting the eviction of an aged, unemployed Negro woman worker, wounding and arresting scores of white and Negro workers.

This savage capitalist terror can be met only by the united, militant mass struggle of all the oppressed and toiling masses. Realizing this, the white workers everywhere must fight in the forefront of the battle against the Jim Crow lynch system of national oppression, against the whole vile capitalist terror system,

shoulder with the doubly oppressed Negro toilers.

On the occasion of the funeral of Grayford and Jackson, over 30,000 Negro and white workers united together and followed the procession in honour of their murdered comrades. The demonstration was the biggest seen in Cleveland since 1917 and was at the same time a protest against the murderous brutality of the police in the Negro quarters.

11, Support the Scottsboro Campaign.

The Negro and white workers must not relax in their agitation and demand the release of the 9 Negro boys still in jail facing death on the electric chair in Scottsboro, Alabama. The capitalists of America are trying to prevent the world from knowing about their cruel scheme of "legally" lynching nine helpless children. At every meeting of the working class the Scottsboro case must be exposed. For only the organized might of the toiling masses can free these boys from the clutches of their executioners.

12. French Seamen defend Boys.

Negro seamen from all parts of the world, meeting in Marseilles at the International Seamen's Club, after having listened to a report by the secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Seamen and Fishermen of France, as well as by Com-



Demonstration of Negro and white workers in New York in defense of the Scottsboro boys

rade Kouyate, general secretary of the League for the Defense of the Negro Race, protested with the greatest indignation against the proposed execution of the nine innocent Negro boys condemned by the lynch law court a Scottsboro.

The seamen unanimously passed a resolution affirming their determination to fight for the overthrow of imperialism, and demanding of the United States government the immediate release of the Scottsboro boys. The resolution further urged workers throughout the world to demonstrate in masses and protest against the lynch law sentence passed on their fellow workers.

The seamen also decided to form a Committee of Action and organize resistance to wage cuts and to demand unemployment insurance for seamen.

13. British Workers Demand Freedom.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of coloured and white workers held at Poplar Town Hall, London, called by the British Minority Movement, the revolutionary trade union organization of the English workers, at which comrade

A. Ward, the secretary of the Negro Welfare Association spoke about the Scottsboro case, the following resolution was adopted:

"This meeting of coloured and white workers emphatically protest against the frame-up trial and sentences of death on eight Negro boys at Scottsboro, Alabama, U.S.A.

It demands the immediate and unconditional release of these boys, and calls upon the workers of Great Britain to organize and fight for this purpose."

It is to be hoped that the African and West Indian workers will also show their solidarity with their suffering brothers in America by protesting against this frame up. Send protest resolutions to the American consul in your colony.

14. Russian Workers Indignant over Lynching.

The Workers of Soviet Russia, who fourteen years ago were in the same position as the Negro masses are to-day, have been greatly aroused over the Scottsboro frame-up. Monster mass meetings are being held in the factories and in public halls calling upon the workers to voice their protest and demand freedom for the boys. So great has been the sympathy created on behalf of the victims, that some workers have recently organized a collective farm, which they have named "Scottsboro".

15. Struck off Postal List.

The official organ of the League for Negro Rights, "The Liberator", has been struck off the postal list and denied postal facilities by the U.S. A. authorities. The reason given was that "The Liberator" published an article and cartoon exposing how the capitalists are trying to kill the Negro boys in Alabama.

Voices from the Colonies

Comrades and Fellow Workers!

We are again taking this opportunity to invite correspondence from all readers of the Negro Worker. We want to receive letters, articles, newspaper cuttings and all bits of information describing the living and working conditions of the Negro masses in all parts of the world, but especially in Africa and the West Indies. Write and let us know about your wages, hours of labor, housing conditions, the policy of the government, police terror, brutality of the bosses and other interesting facts about your life. By publishing these facts we will be able to mobilize the workers in the capitalist countries — England, America, etc., in support of your struggles. Also send us photos showing how the workers live — the kind of rotten homes, they have to pay high rents for, etc. This is important — for pictures do not lie.

Comrades, we want you to remember that the Negro Worker is your magazine. Let us know your opinion about it. Send us suggestions as to how it can be improved. Don't be afraid to say what you really think about it. The Negro Worker is the revolutionary weapon of the Negro working class and will listen to any suggestions from you. That is why we invite all workers and sincere fighters against imperialism and for national freedom to become contributors to its columns.

Read these letters from your brothers in Africa and the West Indies and write us to-day. Don't put it off for to-morrow. Do it now, and in this way help to make the Negro Worker a real fighting paper, through which the cries of millions of brutally enslaved and exploited black men, women and children will be heard in all corners of the world.

The Editor.

Workers Correspondence

The Situation in Nigeria (West Africa)

To the Editor of the "Negro Worker".

Dear Comrade,

We members of the oppressed Negro race of the British colony of Nigeria in West-Africa, have been cut off from the outside world for many years. Hitherto, we have had to conduct our struggle as best we could with our own resources and without any kind of assistance. We have had to suffer many failures in our struggle because our leaders have mostly been lawyers who have received an English education and who have been trained to proceed according to English constitutional and legal methods. Until now the demand for the independence of Nigeria has never been raised. For a number of years we put our trust in the British Labour Party. Now we see that under the régime of the MacDonald Government our position is just as bad as under the previous Conservative Government, and our struggle for freedom is equally persecuted.

The majority of the inhabitants in our country (20 millions in all) are peasant cultivators. The working class is represented by the railway workers and the miners in the coal and tin mines. A certain number of Negroes are also employed in the Government service as small officials or employees. The total white population is not more than five thousand. The rank and file of the army consists of Negroes, but the officers are all whites.

British "Democracy" has provided our country with a "Legislative Assembly" It consists of forty five members of whom only three are elected (in the capital town, Lagos, by citizens who have an income of at least 100 pounds sterling per annum). All the remaining forty two members are nominated by the Government

from the ranks of the State officials.

It must be looked upon as a great misfortune for our struggle for liberation that up to now all our political organizations have been under the leadership of leaders who have been hypnotised by "constitutional" illusions. This applies equally to the National Democratic Party, the Union of Young Intellectuals, the Young Negroes' Association and the Lawyers' Reform Club. That the Government by no means shrinks from the application of violence has been proved by the fact that in Lagos in 1928 ten persons, and in 1930 in Abo, forty five persons were shot down and killed. In the last-named case in Abo, the majority of the victims were women who had gathered in a harmless procession in order to make representations to the Governor that they were unable to pay the high taxes that had been imposed. A law has been passed making participation in demonstrations against the Government punishable with imprisonment for life.

We are burdened with numerous and increasing taxes, such as income tax, poll tax, cattle tax, dog tax and export tax, as well as taxes based on the number of trees on each piece of land owned. All the land in the Northern Regions

belongs to the Government, in the South there are peasant farmers. The cultivator of the soil has to pay a cultivation tax to the Government. Every Negro is compelled to perform unpaid forced labour for the Government for a definite number of days each year (in the North the average is twelve days). The tribal chiefs provide workers for compulsory labour in the coal and tin mines.

The European firms which bring their goods to us fix not only the prices for their own goods, but also the prices for our own native products. On the other hand, wage rates paid by private employers are fixed by the Government. Our peasants can only obtain loans from private money lenders (no agricultural credit bank exists) and they have to pay one shilling in the pound every month as interest. No less than sixty percent of the peasants in the Southern regions are in debt. The Southern region has comparatively big peasants who employ hired labour. In the North there are mostly small cultivators who pay rent directly to the Government.

A very interesting phenomenon among us is the organization of the so-called Ho-Committee. This organizes the illiterate Negro masses. The Ho-Committee has a representative in every street; a meeting takes place regularly every Sunday at which all the street representatives are present as well as representatives of the Mohammedan mosques (15 millions of the native population are Mohammedans, one million are Christian, four millions are "heathen"). In the existing situation, the Ho-Committee must be looked upon as the only organization in opposition to the Government. Previously the Ho-Committee formed an independent political party, but to-day it is collectively affiliated to the National Democratic Party. There is a section of the West-African National Congress in Nigeria.

Of our twelve newspapers in Nigeria, three are in the Jeruba language, the others in English. As a result of our participation in the international Negro Conference in Hamburg last year, some of us have realized that the political methods which we have employed in the past are insufficent for the struggle for emancipation.

We are sending you this first letter so that you may have some information about our conditions and so that we may get into touch with you and receive your proposals and advice in the drawing up of a programme for our struggle.

With revolutionary greetings,

Lagos, 1931.

Nigerian.

An Appeal From Guadeloupe (French West Indies)

To the Editor of the Negro Worker.

Dear Comrade.

We have received copies of the French edition of your fighting paper, the Negro Worker, and greet your slogans and fully support them.

Up to the present we have not found any friends able to lead us on the correct way. We do not wish any longer to be fooled by the local intriguers, by those people who suddenly remember about the existence of the workers each time there is an election period. And so we firmly decided to carry on this line of class against class, considering that only this line can lead us to victory, and that having adopted these tactics — we shall be able to achieve the satisfaction of our demands, that have become extremely complicated to-day.

We think it opportune to remind you of the fact that up to the present the miserable victims who came to harm in the hurricane in Guadeloupe did not see a single farthing of the famous hundred million francs, granted by the French Parliament to relieve the distress.

Only the tradesmen who went bankrupt, the French manufacturers and the owners of distilleries, who are in debt up to the armpit, and became penniless, due to the cyclone - got considerable sums, and so were able to gild their faded and

mouldy coat of arms.

As to ourselves, miserable workers, we received luring promises on the eve of every election campaign, additional examinations were carried out in order to investigate the ground . . . and we are still waiting for the fulfilment of those

We poor victims consider that this farce has become too unbearable, and realize the necessity of building up a Committee of Action in order to struggle

against those who with such impunity are destroying our lives.

As your are aware, the few trade unions which are existing with us, are absolutely inactive. May be the cause of this is that they were badly organized or misunderstood their tasks at the very outset.

Thus they do not fulfil that social role which they must play. You should help us by means of concretely pointing out to us how we are to set about work.

Our living conditions are worsening with every day. The workers have to

Agricultural workers earn 7-11 francs, the wages of industrial workers range from 10 to 15 francs (unskilled workers), and from 18-22 francs for skilled workers (engine-drivers, electrotechnicians). These wages are 5 times as low as the prices. Things are becoming more and more expensive: bread costs 2 francs 50 centimes a kilogram, rice 3 frs. a kil., meat 9 frs. a kil., fish 9 frs. a kil., and a worker can eat these foodstuffs only once a weak. The rent also reached high figures; dirty huts which were let to the workers, prior to war, for 3, 5, 7 and 10 frs. a month now cost 30, 40, 50 and 70 francs a month.

This poverty of ours is as black as the colour of our skin, and neither the administration nor the politicans and employers wish to know anything about

this poverty.

A group of Workers from Guadeloupa.

Bosses Afraid of the "Negro Worker".

To the Editor of the "Negro Worker".

Dear Comrade,

This is just to let you and the readers of the "Negro Worker" know some of the methods which the British Government in Africa uses to terrorise us. Because the "Negro Worker" is exposing the imperialists and calling upon the black masses of Africa to organize into trade unions in order to fight for good wages and better conditions for us and our children, the government of Nigeria has prohibited the "Negro Worker". The governor has passed an order in council forbidding the workers to read the paper. If we are caught with it, it means 10 years in jail; nevertheless, we are still receiving it, now that you have opened our eyes to the true light, we will never turn back and stop reading the "Negro Worker", even if it means 100 instead of 10 years in jail.

We have just started to build our trade union, The African Workers' Union of Nigeria. Our general secretary, comrade Wallace Johnson, is doing his best, but - we all lack experience. That is why we were glad to get news about the

International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers and want you to send us all information an how to build up strong trade unions, especially among the dock workers, motor drivers and the carpenters. We already have a union among the goldsmiths. When we get stronger and the government and the Europeans here continue to treat us in the way that they are now doing we will follow the example of the workers in England in 1926 and call a general strike. Then they will see how the Africans can fight. Give us time. I will write you again.

Yours truly

A Union Member.

Class Against Class

To the Editor of the "Negro Worker".

Dear Comrade,

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the "Communist Manifesto" said that a spectre was haunting Europe, but today it haunts the rest of the world. Speaking about South Africa in particular, we see that its advent in this country on a sub continent has given the government of capitalists and landowners the chance and power to sabotage it by taking the advantage of the illiterate chiefs; we see the Government agents viz., members of the Native Affairs Department engaged in poisoning the minds of these chiefs in particular and their subjects in general.

They are told that if they once allow the existence of the Communist Party in this country, their chieftainship will result in the inevitable downfall as it was in the case with the Tsar of Russia. They are told that the Tsar of Russia unknowingly allowed it in his country, and his downfall was like the morning dew when the sun rises from the East. We see the officials engaged in denouncing Communism to these fools. These born oppressors such as chiefs without taking the slightest pains to study Communism and seeing whether it is really a spectre as it is put to them, organize themselves against the Communist Party under the pretext that it is out to destroy their chieftainship. They run away at the mention of the Communist Party or any of its literature; as for a Communist he is regarded as a real spectre.

But these poor unfortunate illiterate chiefs forget that they are no more regarded as born chiefs so to speak by the Government of the capitalists of the country, but as foremen and can be removed and replaced whenever it suits the human vampires of the country such as the Minister of Native Affairs, or the Native Commissioner without a trial whatsoever in the so-called courts of law or justice. It is quite necessary, however, to note that the powers of these chiefs are deteriorating rapidly and a revolt against them by the masses will be witnessed as soon as they realize the contemptable lies which are taught them against Soviet Russia.

Native Recruiting Corporation — an organization which caters for the Chamber of Mines, recruits all Negroes possible and get them to work underground at pitiful wages. The town's natives who are mostly detribalised and therefore unrecruitable. The company extends their activities further into the Natives' Territorities, bribe the chiefs and thereby manage to get the mines overflown with Negro Workers who do all the filtry work in the mines.

Each chief volunteers to send out a 100 men at a time, receiving for himself 5/- per head, and when these poor men are in services he receives his cheque.

When maltreatment is meted to these men, and they complain to the foreman who was sent out with them, he would write to the chief about the maltreatments asking him to come and investigate. Of necessity, the chief writes to the mine magnates about his visit and on his arrival he is sent for at the station by the mine magnates and before he sees his so-called men he is given a cheque and thereby becomes speechless when he meets his men. He would speak to them in polite manner telling them to be loyal to their masters, that he has spoken to the mine magnates in their interests and that their conditions will be ameliorated. When he is gone, to their surprise and disappointment, they see their old maltreatment of which they have complained still going on. They are locked up in compounds like beasts of burden, thus keeping them away from the Trade Union Organizers.

They contract mine Phtysis to which they receive no compensation, they are sent home where they will be regarded as the do-nothings, for an unemployed Negro in South Africa is not regarded as unemployed but as a vagrant and

vagabond.

In conclusion I say:

Down with the Chiefs!

Down with the mine magnates!

Long live the International Working Class Movement!

Defend Soviet Russia, the first workers' State!

Comradely yours,

J. P. Sepang. Negro Trade Union Organizer.

Death of Comrade Macaulay

As we go to press news has reached us of the death of Comrade Frank Macaulay of Nigeria, West Africa.

Comrade Macaulay, like his father, the well known African politician, Hubert Macaulay, always took a great interest in the problems of the working class of

Nigeria.

Comrade Macaulay's early activities however, were greatly handicapped by the petty-bourgeois nationalistic tendencies which have dominated the revolutionary movement in Nigeria up to the present time. It was only at the First International Congress of Negro Workers held in Hamburg in July 1930 and the Fifth Congress of the R. I. L. U. that Comrade Macaulay, who represented the toiling masses of Nigeria as a delegate had the first opportunity of coming into contact with the revolutionary labour movement. He immediately recognised the reformist policies which the Nigeria Democratic Party had been following and took an active part in the deliberations of the Congresses which he assisted in working out valuable political directives to aid the West African labour movement.

Comrade Macaulay was elected a member of the Executive of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, and on his return to Africa immediately put himself the task of helping the workers of Nigeria free themselves from the reformist and petty-bourgeois tendencies of the leaders of the

Democratic Party and other non-working class organizations.

At this time when the imperialist powers are preparing for war and intervention in Soviet Russia and have already started in China, it is significant to recall that it was Comrade Macaulay who moved the resolution on the Danger of War and the Negro workers which was unanimously adopted at the Hamburg Congress. We shall print this resolution in the next issue of the "Negro Worker" for the benefit of the African toiling masses.

Comrade Macaulay is dead, but his activities have not been in vain, for the workers have recently organized the Nigeria African Trade Union in Lagos as the basis for building a broad working class movement on the principles of the revo-

lutionary class struggle.

Workers Bookshelf

In Africa and other colonies the officials maintain strict censorship over all forms of literature in order to prevent the workers from reading books that will open their eyes and prepare them politically for the tasks of organizing and leading their struggles against the oppressors. The Criminal Investigation Department and other native spies and pimps of the white ruling class terrorize the workers, as the letter from a Nigerian correspondent points out, by making it a criminal offense for even the "Negro Worker", to be found in the hands of a native.

It is the policy of all colonial governments and the capitalist class in general to prevent workers from educating themselves in the knowledge of the class struggle.

We have decided to publish a list of books and pamphlets, which every Negro worker and revolutionary fighter should read.



Comrade Forster Jones, leader of African Seamen, greeting a meeting of German Workers in Hamburg

Most of the literature announced in this column from time to time can all be obtained free by writing to the Literature Department, Negro Trade Union Committee, Rothesoodstrasse 8, Hamburg.

I. Books on Capitalism and the Crisis.

1. Decline of Capitalism.

2. Fight or Starve. - The Unemployment Movement in U.S.A.

3. The Church and the Workers.

4. Fifty millions unemployed.

5. The Labour Government. — Its Record. — G. R. Campbell.

6. The developing Crisis of World Capitalism.

7. Capitalism or Socialism in Britain? - R. Palme-Dutt.

8. Tariffs and Starvation. By W. Gallacher.

9. The new Parliament: An Analysis of the Election Results.

10. Capitalism in Crisis.

II. Books on Imperialism.

- 1. British Imperialism in East Africa. By Elinor Burns.
- 2. British Imperialism in West Africa. By Elinor Burns.
- 3. Labour Imperialism in East Africa. By G. Padmore.

4. Modern India. By R. Palme Dutt.

- 5. Yankee Colonies. By Harry Gannes.
- 6. How Britain rules India. By R. Page Arnot.

7. Free the Colonies. By R. Palme Dutt.

8. American Imperialism Enslaves Liberia. By G. Padmore.

9. Forced Labour in Africa. By G. Padmore.

10. British Imperialism in Ireland. By Elinor Burns.

11. The colonies and oppressed nations in the Struggle for Freedom. Published by the League Against Imperialism.

III. Books on the International Labour Movement.

1. What is the Profintern? By A. Lozowsky.

2. A-B-C of Trade Unionism. By A. Lozowsky. 3. The Seven Hour Day. By J. R. Campbell.

4. The immediate Tasks of the International Trade Union Movement. By O. Piatnitsky.

5. The Way Out.

IV. Books on the Negro Movement.

1. The Negro Worker. By Jim Allan.

2. Negro Workers and the Imperialist War against Soviet Russia. By G. Padmore.

3. The Negroes in the United States. By F. Markosch.

4. Capitalist Terror against Negro Workers in U.S.A. By Maxim Gorky.

5. Life and Struggles of Negro Workers. By G. Padmore.

6. What is the Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers? By G. Padmore.

7. Lynch Justice in America. By B. D. Amis. 8. Report of the 1st Negro Workers' Conference.

9. Lynching Negro Children in Southern Courts. By Joseph North.

10. Race Prejudice on Trial.

11. Negro Workers and the War of 1914-1918. By J. W. Ford.

Because of the limitation of space we are prevented from giving a review of the pamphlets in the above lists. However, we shall review them in future issues.

What is the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers?

The Negro Workers Committee was formed in July 1930 at an international conference of Negro toilers held in Hamburg, Germany. The Committee is not a race, but a class organization, organizing and leading the fight in the interests of Negro workers in Africa, the West Indies and other colonies.

Since its creation, the Committee has grown at a tremendous pace and has adherents and supporters in British, French, Belgian, Portuguese — Africa, Liberia, Haiti, the British West Indies, British Guiana, Central and South America and the United States. The aims of the Committee are as follows:

- To carry on propaganda and agitation, calling upon the Negro workers to organize themselves into revolutionary trade unions in order to fight for higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions.
- To help the millions of Negro workers who are now unemployed organize councils in order to demand relief from the government, free rent and non-payment of taxes.
- 3. To agitate and organize the Negro workers against the approaching imperialist war and the intervention in Soviet Russia, in which the white capitalist exploiters intend to use black workers as cannon-fodder as they did in the last war.
- 4. To promote and develop the spirit of international solidarity between the workers of all colours and nationalities, calling upon them to support the Soviet Union which fights for the freedom of the working class and all oppressed peoples, as well as the Chinese, Indian, South African and all other revolutionary liberation movements of the colonial toilers.
- 5. The Committee also fights against white chauvinism, (race prejudice) social-reformism and the reformist programmes of the Negro capitalist misleaders, like Marcus Garvey, Du Bois, Pickens and Walter White of the National Association of Colored People in America; Kadalie and Champion in South Africa, the white trade union faker, Captain Cipriani, in the West Indies; and the missionaries, preachers and other agents of imperialism.

These misleaders, instead of organizing the Negro masses to fight for their freedom as the revolutionary workers in China, India and elsewhere are doing, are the very ones who help the capitalists by preaching obedience, and loyalty to imperialist rule:

Workers, organize the fight against imperialism!

(For the basic demands of the Negro Workers Committee see next page.)

What We Fight For:

Our Programme of Demands:

- 1. Abolition of Forced Labour, Peonage and Slavery.
- 2. Equal Pay for Equal Work Irrespective of Race, Colour or Sex.
- 3. Eight Hour Day.
- 4. Government Relief for Unemployed, free rent, no taxes.
- 5. Freedom to organize trade unions, unemployed councils and peasant committees, right to strike.
- 6. Against racial barriers in trade unions and colour bar in industry.
- 7. Against capitalist terror lynching, police and soldier terrorism, arrest and deportation of foreign workers.
- 8. Against confiscation of peasant and communal lands, against any taxation of the poor Negro peasants.
- 9. For full independence of the Negro toilers in Africa and the West Indies, and their right of self-determination in the Black Belt of U.S.A.
- 10. Against using Negro workers to fight in imperialist wars. For the defense of the Soviet Union and Chinese Revolution.

Support the Negro Workers Committee and help build the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement in your country

Write to the Secretary: 8 Rothesoodstrasse, Hamburg, Germany.

Long live the freedom of the Negro Workers! Down with imperialism!



All Workers are invited to write Letters and Articles about their conditions the "NEGRO WORKER" Official Organ of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers

Send all communications to the Secretary, 8, Rothesoodstrasse, Hamburg, Germany

Verantwortlich: G. Padmore, Hamburg Druck: Graphische Industrie Hamburg GmbH. Hamburg 36.



FREE THE COLONIES!

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive Location:- Johannesburg ©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.